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# MY WIFE ETHEL

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ALSO BY RUNYON

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more than somewhat  
furthermore  
take it easy

(turn to the last  
pages of this book)

the  
publishers are  
**CONSTABLE**

Orange Street London WC2



DAMON RUNYON

MY  
WIFE ETHEL

drawings by josef

the  
publishers are  
**CONSTABLE**

Orange Street London WC2

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ETHEL AND JOE



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# I. ETHEL'S POPS AND JOE'S UNCLE TIM



*Brooklyn, January 11.*

**D**EAR SIR the other night my wife Ethel was reading the paper and she ses Joe suppose we went to Paris and I bought a lot of lovely dresses at a big bargain. One of them would be for evening with sequins all over it. I ses all right Ethel there is no harm in me supposing that.

She ses then suppose I brought them back to this country but did not say anything to anybody about them when we got here and they found them in the secret place in my baggage



## MY WIFE ETHEL

where I had hid them. I ses who found them? Ethel ses why whoever it is that is always finding things like that. Then suppose they charged me for the dresses all over again and made them cost me more than if I had bought them in Brooklyn in the first place. Do you think that would be fair Joe?

I ses see here Ethel you are talking about smuggling. I ses that is against the law and of course it would be fair for them to charge you again for those dresses if you did not pay duty on them. She ses yes Joe but then they would not be big bargains. I ses never mind about them not being bargains. I ses what has that got to do with the law? I ses I am surprised at you even thinking of doing a thing like that Ethel.

She ses O I was not thinking of doing it Joe. What would be the sense of me running all over Paris shopping for bargains and then have it turn out that they were not bargains at all? I ses look Ethel sweets you make me nervous talking that way. I ses if somebody heard you talk they would get the idea that you are a criminal. I ses smuggling is cheating the Government and they would put you in jail

## ETHEL'S POPS AND JOE'S UNCLE TIM

for that. I ses think of the disgrace you would bring on us.

Ethel ses O pooh Joe I was just supposing something and you have to get excited. I would first have to get to Paris to buy those lovely dresses at a bargain and how much chance have I got to get there? I ses well Ethel you never can tell about those things and she ses Joe I would not hide them in a secret place after all because that is the first place they look. I would put them all on at once and wear them in even if it would make me look as fat as a pig.

I ses Ethel I wish you would stop. I ses think how I would feel if somebody named Turp was arrested for breaking the law like that and Ethel ses Joe what was your Uncle Tims last name? I ses his last name was Turp of course. She ses well do you know what my Pop ses? I ses I am not much interested in what your Pop ses but what was it?

Ethel ses my Pop ses your Uncle Tim was the worst bootlegger in Brooklyn when they had bootlegging here and it was against the law. My Pop ses your Uncle Tim was arrested more times for breaking the law than I have got

## MY WIFE ETHEL

fingers and toes and thats twenty Joe. I ses Ethel my Uncle Tim has got nothing to do with what we are talking about. She ses well you asked me to think how you would feel if somebody named Turp was arrested for breaking the law and his name was Turp. How did you feel Joe?

I ses I was too young to feel anything then Ethel and anyway my Uncle Tim was never convicted but twice. I ses your Pops has got his gall talking about my Uncle Tim when he has owed him for seven years for four bottles of gin and Ethel ses O Joe my Pops ses that was because it was half water. My Pops ses your Uncle Tim was very tricky that way.

I ses lets forget my Uncle Tim and your Pops too Ethel and she ses yes they are not very interesting are they Joe? What were we talking about before? O yes I remember now and Joe there is an ad in this paper that shows a lovely dress just like I would buy in Paris. It costs sixteen dollars and I bet I could not buy as big a bargain over there even if they never found it where I had it hid.

I ses Ethel baby thats a funny thing but I have got sixteen dollars to spare right here in

## ETHEL'S POPS AND JOE'S UNCLE TIM

my pocket and you go right down and buy that dress tomorrow and wear it in good health but please never talk about smuggling again. I ses people might get the wrong idea and she ses I will never mention it again Joe and you are a wonderful husband and I love you.

I was about going to sleep when Ethel shook me and ses Joe I just want to tell you one thing more and that will positively be the last. I ses what about? She ses why about those lovely dresses that I had you suppose I bought in Paris. I ses well shoot Ethel but remember what you promised me.

She ses Joe I have been thinking I would be awfully embarrassed if somebody I knew came to meet me at the boat when I was wearing all those dresses. I would not want the neighbors to know I had got that fat all of a sudden. They would think it was very funny after I had gone away so slim. Joe you never have to be afraid of me smuggling anything.

I ses good night Ethel and she ses good night Joe and thanks again for the dress.

Yours truly

JOE TURP.

## 2. BROOKLYN IS ALL RIGHT

---

*Brooklyn, January 26.*

DEAR SIR the other night my wife Ethel was reading the paper and she ses Joe do you know what? I ses see here Ethel why do you always start out to say something by asking me a question? She ses why Joe what question did I ask you? I ses Ethel you just this minute ses Joe do you know what. I ses that is a question.

Ethel ses why Joe that is not a question at all. That is just to get you to notice me so I can tell you something. I ses do you mean to say it is not a question when you holler out Joe do you know what? Ethel ses certainly that is not a question. It is just a way of starting a conversation and besides I did not holler.

I ses well Ethel go ahead and start your conversation and she ses Joe do you know Brooklyn is all right? I ses I suppose that is not a question either? She ses why of course not Joe. It is just telling you something. I ses well you asked me if I know Brooklyn is all

## BROOKLYN IS ALL RIGHT

right and if that is not a question I would like to know what is.

Ethel ses O Joe I guess you are not feeling so good this evening and I ses I feel good enough and she ses well then do you know it? I ses do I know what? She ses do you know Brooklyn is all right? I ses of course I know it. I ses I have been telling you all along that it is the all rightest place in the world but how did you come to think of it yourself all of a sudden? I ses the last time I heard you say something about Brooklyn it was to knock everything and everybody in it.

Ethel ses yes but I guess I was just mad for a minute or two over something. I do not even remember what I ses. I ses well you ses plenty. I ses you ses if you had your way you would not be found dead in Brooklyn. Ethel ses O I remember that now but I take it all back. Brooklyn is all right. I ses well there is no use in you making your apologies to me. I ses you better make them to Mayor Laguardia.

I ses Ethel you have not told me yet what has happened to make you think of that and she ses well Joe I have been reading about the most terrible things that are happen-

## MY WIFE ETHEL

ing in other places. That is what made me think of it. Joe do you know there are places in the world where if I went out walking like I do here in Brooklyn somebody would drop a bomb on me and blow me to little pieces?

I ses yes I know that and Ethel ses do you know there are places where they tell you how you have to live? I ses who tells you? She ses whoever is the dictator tells you. Joe do you know I would not like that? I ses you can bet you would not like it Ethel. She ses that is why Brooklyn is all right Joe. Nobody tells me how I have to live in Brooklyn and nobody drops bombs on me if I go out walking.

I ses well Ethel it is the same way everywhere else in this country and she ses I do not know anything about anywhere else in this country Joe but I know about Brooklyn and Brooklyn is all right. I would not live anywhere else in the world. Even my Uncle Dan ses Brooklyn is all right.

I ses O he does hay? I ses well I guess Brooklyn will be glad to hear your Uncle Dan thinks it is all right. I ses what has become of that revolution he was talking about the

## BROOKLYN IS ALL RIGHT

last time he was over here? I ses has he postponed it or what?

Ethel ses O Joe Uncle Dan does not want to see any revolution since he got that job working for the city. Uncle Dan ses a revolution would upset things in Brooklyn and he ses there is no sense in doing that. He ses Brooklyn is all right the way it is. Uncle Dan is very happy Joe because all he has to do is walk around and see that some other fellows do their work right.

I ses does your Pops think Brooklyn is all right too Ethel? She ses why of course he does Joe. You know very well my Pops always thinks Brooklyn is all right. He ses Brooklyn is all righter than any other place in this whole world and so does my Moms because she does not know about any other place.

I ses well now thats fine. I ses since everybody thinks Brooklyn is all right there is nothing for us to worry about so if you will get your hat and coat I will take you to see a picture. Ethel ses I will be with you right away Joe and just think we do not have to sit there in the movies shivering and shaking for fear somebody is going to drop a bomb on us like



## MY WIFE ETHEL

they do in those other places. Brooklyn is all right Joe.

I ses you can say it again Ethel and she ses all right Joe I will say it again. Brooklyn is all right.

Very truly  
JOE TURP.

### 3. "LET ME EXPLAIN"

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*Brooklyn, February 3.*

DEAR SIR the other night when my wife Ethel and me got home from the movies she ses Joe do you know why people in the pictures are always in so much trouble? I ses no why? She ses it is because they never give each other a chance to explain things.

I ses Ethel what are you getting at and she ses well you take that picture to-night. The girl in the picture thought the fellow was somebody else and every time he ses to her let me explain she ses no get out. Do you remember that Joe?

I ses well I guess I remember something about it Ethel and she ses well it was early in the picture and that is what got them in all their trouble. If she had stood there and listened to him explain like a lady should they would have had no trouble at all and they could have gone ahead and got married without going through all the rest of the picture.

I ses look Ethel if they had done that there would not have been much of a picture left

## MY WIFE ETHEL

and Ethel said no and it would have been just as well. It would have saved a lot of people the bother of setting there until the finish. I knew how it was going to turn out as soon as she would not let him explain who he was and so did everybody else in the theatre.

I ses well Ethel in that case I do not see why you set there and made me set there too and she ses why Joe we had paid our money to see the picture and it would have been wasting eighty cents not to set through the whole picture. Anyway Joe I did not hear you suggesting that we get up and go before the finish.

I ses well Ethel to tell the truth I was not paying much attention to the picture after I heard the fellow say to the girl everything will be all right. I ses I saw right away it was just one of those pictures and I stopped paying attention there. I ses I never pay attention to those everything will be all right pictures. I ses I want my pictures to have everything all wrong.

Ethel says well Joe I think they waste a lot of time and money on pictures by not letting somebody explain to somebody at once.

## “LET ME EXPLAIN”

Sometimes it is the fellow who takes the girl to be somebody else and when she ses let me explain he never stops to listen to her until the picture is about over. Sometimes he takes her to be a servant when she is really a millionaire heiress and sometimes he takes her to be a thief when she is really honest but when she ses let me explain he pushes her aside.

I ses listen here Ethel I have seen all those pictures myself and you need not tell me about them again and she ses well Joe all I am trying to do is to show you what gets those people in trouble in the pictures. Sometimes the girl catches the fellow with his arms around another girl but all he is doing is fixing the other girl's necklace or maybe she is really his sister that no one knows about and when he sees the first girl is mad he ses let me explain and she goes off with her nose in the air and that starts the trouble.

I ses what trouble and she ses Joe Turp you are not listening to me. I mean the trouble between the girl and the fellow that lasts all through the rest of the picture. I ses well I guess they have got to have something for the picture to go along on and Ethel ses yes but

## MY WIFE ETHEL

Joe you always claim the movies are life. Do you think it is life for people to keep saying let me explain and nobody giving them a word in edgeways?

I ses well Ethel it is life for a girl to be mad if she catches a fellow with his arms around another girl no matter what he has them around her for and most girls will not listen no matter how much a fellow ses let me explain. I ses if you caught me with my arms around another girl and I ses let me explain would you wait for me to explain?

Ethel ses O that is different. I might be mad for a minute but then I would say set down Joe and explain and if you could prove that you was only fixing her necklace or that she was your sister it would be all right with me. I would not carry on the rest of the evening like those people in the pictures. I could just scream the minute somebody in a picture ses I can explain and then they do not let them explain until an hour or so later when they have to do it to make the picture come out all right. Joe I am never going to see another I can explain picture as long as I live.

I ses well Ethel I am never going to see

## “LET ME EXPLAIN”

another everything will be all right picture either, so between us both it looks as if we might as well stay away from the movies for a while and Ethel ses that suits me but an hour later she ses listen Joe what other girl would you have your arms around if you had your arms around another girl? I ses Ethel baby let me explain that my arms do not fit any other girl but you and she ses well Joe everything is all right.

Yours truly  
JOE TURP.

## 4. BEAUTY CLAY AND SHAVING SOAP

---

*Brooklyn, February 17.*

DEAR SIR the other night when I was going to bed my wife Ethel was walking around with her face covered with stuff and I ses see here Ethel do you think it is nice when a fellow is going to bed to see his wifes face covered with stuff so she looks like a ghost? I ses it looks terrible.

Ethel ses wait a minute Joe I cannot talk so good right now but later on after she had taken the stuff off and I was almost asleep she came in and shook me wide awake and ses Joe what did you say a little while ago about my face? I ses it looks terrible. I ses I mean when you have got that stuff on it.

She ses that was only beauty clay for my complexion and I ses I dont care what it was it makes you look terrible when you have got it on. She ses why Joe dont you want me to have a nice complexion and I ses well I never saw any difference between your complexion after

## BEAUTY CLAY AND SHAVING SOAP

you have had that stuff on. I ses I don't think it is a nice sight for a husband to see his wife with stuff on her face so all you can see of her is her eyes.

Ethel ses O is that so? I ses yes that is so and she ses why Joe everybody uses beauty clay for their complexion nowadays and I ses what do you mean everybody? I ses do you see me using it? I ses do you see me plastering my face with that stuff?

Ethel ses no but how about you in the mornings when you are shaving? I ses what about me then. She ses you smatter your face all over with a lot of soap. I ses well that is nothing but soap and I have to smatter it on so it will soften my whiskers and I can shave better.

She ses well do you think you look like any bargain when your face is smattered with soap? She ses you stick your head out of the bath room door when you have your face all smattered up and talk to me and I have to look at you whether I want to or not. What is the difference between me having beauty clay on my face and you having your face all smattered up with soap I would like to know?



## MY WIFE ETHEL

I ses look Ethel everybody uses soap on their faces to shave with and it comes right off with the razor and anyway it does not hide everything on my face but my eyes and she ses maybe it would be better if it did. I ses Ethel what does that crack mean and she ses O nothing. I ses well it sounded to me like something.

Ethel ses look Joe when your face is all smattered with soap and you stick your head out of the bath room door to talk to me you always splutter soap at me out of your mouth and I do not think that is so pretty but I never say anything about it. I never say anything about you gargling when you brush your teeth so loud they can hear you down to the corner although sometimes I could scream.

I ses Ethel when a man brushes his teeth he has to gargle a little so as to swash the tooth-paste around in his mouth and she ses well he has a right to gargle quiet so the neighbours will not hear. Another thing I never say anything to you about that goo you put on your hair although you are awful careless about whose brush and comb you use and you are always leaving that goo in my brush and comb.

## BEAUTY CLAY AND SHAVING SOAP

I ses Ethel that is not goo I use on my hair. I ses it is only a little hair tonic to keep my hair slicked down so I will look neat. She ses yes I guess you like to look neat in case you run into that old Abbie Schultz.

I ses Ethel I have not seen Abbie Schultz in a month of Sundays and what if I did? I ses I am only old friends with Abbie Schultz and Ethel ses well you always thought she was good looking. I ses well she is and what harm is there in me thinking so? I ses I have not seen Abbie Schultz in three months and Ethel ses well that last time you saw her you stood and talked to her ten minutes. I heard all about it.

I ses why Ethel all I talked about to her was the weather and Ethel ses what weather? I ses well the weather we was having and Ethel ses if you see that old Abbie Schultz again and talk to her tell her I think it would be a good idea for her to use plenty of beauty clay herself every night. She has got a complexion like a brick wall. I guess she got it from standing out in the weather talking about the weather to fellows like that.

I ses well Ethel honey everybody cannot have a complexion like you. I ses it is like peaches

## MY WIFE ETHEL

and cream and Ethel ses O Joe do you really think so. I ses it is a cinch and she ses that comes of using the beauty clay and I ses Ethel from now on you can use all the beauty clay you like and I will never say a word and now let me go to sleep again and she ses Joe you can smatter your face with soap all you want to but please try not to make so much noise gargling good night.

Yours truly

JOE TURP.

## 5. "OO-OO-OO!"



*Brooklyn, March 5.*

DEAR SIR my wife Ethel was listening to the radio the other night and she ses Joe what is the idea of those people on the radio always talking about murders and crimes? I ses what people? She ses O a lot of people. Every time I turn on the radio I hear people talking about murders and crimes. They have whole programs about them.

I ses well Ethel honey you can always turn them off and turn somebody else on. I ses that is one beautiful thing about the radio you do not have to listen to something you do not like. Ethel ses yes but if you turn something else on it may be one of those fellows out in Hollywood with their jokes and they are worse than murders and crimes except William C. Fields.

I ses well there is no law that makes you listen to a radio at all is there? Ethel ses no but what else can I do when there are no new movies to see and you set there like some old thing reading the paper? I ses we'll get some

## MY WIFE ETHEL

hot band or a hot singer and she ses that is just what I am always trying to do but there are so many people talking about murders and crimes that it is hard to get anything else. Joe do you think murders and crimes on the radio are so interesting?

I ses well Ethel you know I am not a radio man. I ses all I like to hear on the radio is Bing Crosby singing a song about love or Walter Winchell telling me some quick news. I ses I never have much luck with the radio because every time I turn it on all I get is somebody playing the organ or hill billies and I hate hill billies.

Ethel ses well they are not as bad as murders and crimes. I was setting here the night when you was downtown bowling and I turned on the radio and a lady was screaming and somebody was going OO OO OO like somebody crazy and it almost scared me out of my mind.

I ses what was they making those noises about? Ethel ses they was playing a sketch that had a murder in it and acting it all out. Somebody kept going OO OO OO all the time. Joe it was terrible and I had a notion

“OO-OO-OO!”

to put on my hat and go over to my Moms only I was afraid you would wonder where I was when you got home.

I ses why you could have left a note and I would have known where you was and Ethel ses well I was so scared I did not think of that. I ses I do not remember any night that I got home from bowling and found you so scared and Ethel ses no I never let on to you because it was the night you staid out so late and I was so mad when you got home.

I ses well Ethel I told you Sweeney the district leader dropped in where I was bowling and he staid there talking and I could not walk out on him could I? Ethel ses no I suppose not. I suppose Sweeney the district leader was more important than your poor wife setting here at home scared to death thinking somebody might come through the window any minute and murder me in cold blood.

I ses look Ethel what would anybody want to murder you in cold blood for? I ses anyway if you let out one yip this whole neighborhood would be around in a minute to see what was happening so you was in no danger. Ethel ses well I was scared just the same and I sat

## MY WIFE ETHEL

here shivering all over while somebody on the radio was going OO OO OO all the time. I never was so scared in all my life.

I laughed and she ses you can laugh all you want to Joe Turp but I would like to see you set here some night all alone and have somebody go OO OO OO on the radio. I bet you would put your hat on and go right out of the house. Joe do you think it is nice for them to scare people on the radio that way?

I ses well Ethel maybe they do not know they are scaring people. I ses maybe they just want to give the people a thrill and Ethel ses why? I ses well I do not know why but maybe they think that is a good way of entertaining people and she ses Joe do you think murders and crimes are entertaining? Suppose a lot of ladies and children are listening to the radio. Do you think murders and crimes are entertainment for them Joe?

I ses listen Ethel I told you before I am not a radio man so I do not know what is entertainment and what is not. I ses all I say is you can always turn off anything you do not like on the radio and that is really a beautiful thing. I ses the night you heard somebody going OO

“OO-OO-OO!”

OO OO and you was so scared did you turn it off right away or what?

Why Ethel ses of course I did not turn it off. I heard it all the way through. I ses then it was your own fault you was scared because all you had to do was to turn it off and Ethel ses why Joe Turp if I had turned it off how in the world could I have found out who killed who? I ses who did? Ethel ses it was the somebody that kept going O O and scared me so.

Yours truly

JOE TURP.



## 6. DIET AND EXERCISE

---

*Brooklyn, March 20.*

DEAR SIR the other night when we came home from the movies I was reading the paper and my wife Ethel was looking at herself in the mirror and she ses hay Joe do you think I am getting fat?

I ses why no Ethel. I ses you are just nice. She ses you are not looking at me at all. You are reading that old paper. I ses Ethel I do not have to look at you to know how you look and you are just nice.

She ses well I think I am getting a little hippy. What do you think? I ses no Ethel you do not look hippy to me. I ses you are just nice. She ses well I wish I was as thin as that Katherine Hepburn we saw in the picture to-night. I ses yes she is thin all right and Ethel ses I suppose you wish I was as thin as she is.

I ses look Ethel you wished it yourself. I ses all I ses is Katherine Hepburn is thin all right. I ses she has a nice pair of bunting sticks too.

## DIET AND EXERCISE

Ethel ses O I know what you mean by that remark Joe Turp. You mean legs. I ses Ethel I do not mean arms, and she ses well that is all fellows like you notice anyway. If you ask me I think she is too thin all over and so are her legs. I suppose you wish I had legs like Katherine Hepburn?

I ses Ethel I do not wish you had legs like anybody except yourself. I ses your legs are all right, and she ses well anyway I think I will go on a diet day after to-morrow only that is Wednesday and I want to go to the Dagoes for dinner and eat zitti. Yes I will start my diet Thursday Joe.

I ses what again? She ses what do you mean again? I ses well Ethel since we have been married I guess you have been on a diet a hundred times and she ses all right what of it? I do not see what kick you have coming if somebody goes on a diet. It saves you money in what I do not eat.

I ses Ethel the last time you was on a diet you was eating lamb chops and pineapples for your dinners and that did not save me money because they cost more than corn beef and cabbage and she says well I lost two pounds a

## MY WIFE ETHEL

day. I ses yes and you picked up three pounds a night with the chocolate you ate in the movies so you came out loser on the pounds.

Ethel ses O I suppose you begrudge me a few chocolates besides the lamb chops and pineapples? I ses Ethel baby you know I never begrudge you anything. I ses I was just saying that the chocolate stood off the lamb chops and pineapples. I ses you can eat a dollars worth of chocolates every night for all I care and she ses thats just it Joe you never try to help me lose pounds. You encourage me to eat things.

I ses I did not encourage you to-night to have that ice cream soda after all those chocolates you ate in the movies and Ethel ses why you talk like I ate a ton of chocolates when all I ate was a few little bitsy pieces. Any way I knew I was going on a diet right away.

I ses maybe if you took some exercise instead of dieting you would knock off a few pounds and Ethel ses O you do think I am getting fat then? I ses I did not say I think anything of the kind. I ses I was only making a suggestion to help you out and she ses well please tell me where I am getting fat Joe?

## DIET AND EXERCISE

I ses look Ethel I tell you I do not think you are getting fat anywhere. I ses I think you are just nice and she ses is it on my hips? I ses is what on your hips? She ses the fat? I ses Ethel how many times do you want me to tell you there is no fat on you anywheres? I ses you are just nice and she ses no you would not have made that remark about me taking exercise if you did not think I am getting fat.

I ses Ethel I am not going to argue with you any more about it. I ses I tell you you are not getting fat but are just nice but if you want to diet go ahead. I ses anything you do is all right with me but if you got a bicycle and rode it around the park a little every day it would do you more good than anything else.

My wife Ethel started to cry and ses I knew it was my hips or you would not tell me to take that kind of exercise and I ses look Ethel I would not care if you was as hippy as an elephant I would love you I ses but I still say you are not hippy you are just nice and she ses well all right Joe if you still love me I do not care myself but I will go on a diet just the same and ride a bicycle too and you must not let me eat any more chocolates if you have to choke me.

## MY WIFE ETHEL

I ses good night Ethel and went to bed and two hours later she woke me up and ses look Joe you know a bicycle and a diet will not make my legs like Katherine Hepburns because nothing helps legs and I ses Ethel sweetheart your legs are just nice good night.

Yours truly

JOE TURP.

## 7. IS SINGING NECESSARY?

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*Brooklyn, April 11.*

DEAR SIR when my wife Ethel and me got home from the movies the other night she ses listen Joe is singing necessary?

I ses what do you mean is singing necessary? Ethel ses I mean in the movies lately there is an awful lot of singing and I was wondering if it is necessary.

I ses why Ethel the singing is to entertain people and she ses what is entertaining about it? I ses well Ethel to tell you the truth I do not know. She ses does it entertain you? I ses Ethel I must admit it does not entertain me but then I am not a singing man myself so I have no kick coming about it. I ses I thought you liked singing.

She ses well I do but not all the time. It has got so now you never get to see a movie that does not have somebody singing in it. Sometimes I could almost scream there is so much singing and besides the way they do it in the movies it is not natural.

I ses why Ethel how is it not natural? She

## MY WIFE ETHEL

ses well you take that movie to-night where the fellow was in love with the girl and they went for a stroll under the trees and sat down on a log. He never said boo to her but just started off singing at her in a tenor voice. Do you think that was natural Joe?

I ses do you mean do I think the tenor voice was natural? She ses I am serious Joe. I mean do you think it was natural for a fellow in love with a girl to start singing to her in any kind of a voice while setting on a log? I ses well Ethel maybe they just put it in that way to make it romantic. She ses what was romantic about it? I ses well maybe the walk under the trees was romantic.

Ethel ses I am not talking about the walk under the trees so much. I am talking about the fellow singing to the girl he was in love with while setting on a log. She had to just set there twisting her hat in her hands by the ribbons while he was singing and nobody has worn hats like that for years. She looked like an awful ninny. Do you think that was natural Joe?

I ses Ethel for all I know maybe it was natural and she ses what with ants around

## IS SINGING NECESSARY?

crawling up somebody's stockings? I ses how do you know there was ants around there and she ses why there are always ants around logs. I ses well Ethel maybe the fellow just took a chance and she ses all right but what about when they was out riding on horses and the fellow started to sing to her from the horse's back? Do you think it was natural for a fellow to sing to somebody he loves in that position?

I ses Ethel I guess that would be a little awkward at that and she ses what about when the girl was walking along the street and the fellow walked up beside her and took her arm and started singing at her? Do you think that was natural Joe?

I ses well Ethel maybe something like that could happen at that and she ses why Joe Turp a girl would be embarrassed half to death if a fellow did that to her on the street and the people going past would think he was crazy. What do you suppose I would have done before we was married if you had walked up beside me on the street and took my arm and started singing to me?

I ses what would you have done? Ethel ses I would have batted you over the head with



## MY WIFE ETHEL

my handbag thats what I would have done. I ses you would would you? She ses yes I would. Then I would have called a cop. I ses well Ethel one thing you have got to give me credit for then is I never tried to sing at you and she ses what about the Halloweves night you came round and sang around and sang at me under my window in the most terrible voice?

I ses all right what about it? Ethel ses well it was terrible and my Pops was going to go down and run you off but he ses you was probably loaded a little so we had better forget it. I ses look Ethel I never was loaded more than a few times in my life and that was not one of the times. I ses as for your Pops running me off any time I would like to see him try it. I ses another thing was my voice was not so terrible either and the whole trouble was neither you or your family had any appreciation of it.

Ethel ses O Joe you are mistaken. Your voice was perfectly terrible. The whole neighborhood was scared but never mind that now. I want to talk about the singing in the movies. Did you think it was natural for the fellow to

## IS SINGING NECESSARY?

sing to the girl he loved from up in a tree? I ses I do not remember any fellow singing that way to-night and Ethel ses no I guess that was in another movie. He sang from a tree outside her bedroom window and she sat up in bed and listened in a negligee.

I ses well I still do not remember it. I ses the only singing I remember to-night was when the three little girls with their hair hanging down came out and went woo woo woo woo woo and when the fellow who played the part of the hero was singing at the girl he loved after they had all that trouble getting together and she confessed she loved him also.

I ses Ethel you must admit it was natural for the fellow to sing at the girl he loved then and Ethel ses well Joe it may have been natural all right but I am still wondering if it was necessary.

Yours truly  
JOE TURP.

## 8. QUINS

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*Brooklyn, April 27.*

DEAR SIR the other night my wife Ethel was reading the paper and she ses Joe what about Missus Dionne? I ses what Missus Dionne? Ethel ses why the lady who had the quintuplets.

I ses I thought Doc Dafoe had those quintuplets and Ethel ses now that is just it. What is the idea of nobody ever giving Missus Dionne the credit that is coming to her? It was quite a job having those quintuplets but nobody ever gives her the credit.

I ses why Ethel I never knew anybody was holding out anything on her and Ethel ses well you never see her name mentioned in the papers when they are talking about the quintuplets. Sometimes they put her name in when she is having another baby that is not a quintuplet but when it comes to the quins it is always something about that Doctor Dafoe or Mister Dionne. It is never anything about her. You would not think she was ever there when those quintuplets was born.

## QUINS

I ses look Ethel if it comes to giving anybody credit I think Mister Dionne is entitled to plenty. I ses I think he ought to have a medal and Ethel ses well Missus Dionne was the important one. Doctor Dafoe and Mister Dionne get all the credit but if it had not been for Missus Dionne where would they be? I ses Ethel I will ask you the same question about Mister Dionne? Where would Doc Dafoe and Missus Dionne be if it was not for Mister Dionne?

I ses anyway why are you so interested in Missus Dionne now? Ethel ses well it ses here in the paper that her husband is going to have his salary raised three hundred dollars a month out of the money the quins make but it does not say how much Missus Dionne will get out of that. I ses well Ethel maybe Mister Dionne will split it with her and Ethel ses like you do your salary with me.

I ses look Ethel I give you all my salary I can afford and sometimes more and she ses well perhaps that is what Mister Dionne tells Missus Dionne. I think she is entitled to more salary than he is. I ses O I suppose you think you are entitled to more salary than I am? Ethel ses

## MY WIFE ETHEL

I would if I had had quintuplets but I would not like to have to let the government raise my quins like Missus Dionne has to do.

I ses Ethel if you had quintuplets I guess the government would have to raise them all right because I would be on relief. Ethel ses yes but what about me? I would not want to be parted from my quintuplets and have them fenced off somewhere for people to come and stare. I would want to have them home with me so I could dress them up all alike and cute. Joe you would not let the government take my quins away from me would you?

I ses Ethel I guess the government is having a tough enough time as it is without looking for any quintuplets to raise. I ses I promise you now that I will never let yours be taken by the government if I have to go out and beg borrow and steal to take care of them and Ethel ses why Joe that is awful nice of you. I ses of course I want to get plenty of credit. I ses I think that would only be fair.

Ethel ses O I would see that you got some of the credit Joe but I would not let old Doctor Curtcher go around taking bows on my quintuplets like that Doctor Dafoe unless I was

## QUINS

with him to take them too. I ses what has Doctor Curtcher got to do with it? Ethel ses O he would be there when my quintuplets came. I would not think of having anybody else there but Doctor Curtcher. My family has always had him when anybody has been born.

I ses I guess old Doc Curtcher will be excited when he hears he has got some business to look forward to and Ethel ses no Joe he does not get excited about those things. Doctor Curtcher brought forty new babies into the world in this neighborhood last year and he was not excited at all. He was very calm.

I ses well Ethel those were not quintuplets and she ses why there was six sets of twins and that is pretty good. I ses Ethel twins are just fair. I ses triplets are pretty good and quadruplets are fine but quintuplets are something extra special. I ses I bet old Doc Curtcher would be excited about them and Ethel ses well perhaps he would but just the same I would not stand for him taking any bows on them unless I was with him. I would not be pushed back like poor Missus Dionne and see him take the credit for everything.

## MY WIFE ETHEL

I ses now you see you are not saying a word about me all this time. I ses you are not considering me at all. I ses where would I be when you and Doc Curtcher was taking bows? I ses I would be just like Mister Dionne with nobody giving me a boost once in a while or even thinking of me. I ses just for that I am now going to bed and Ethel ses O well you always get mad when you argue about something but I tell you what I would do Joe, to give you credit. I would name one of my quins after you even if it was a girl and I ses well Ethel that is swell of you and it is more than Mister Dionne got at that.

Yours truly

JOE TURP.

## 9. SHORT PANTS

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*Brooklyn, May 24.*

DEAR SIR the other night my wife Ethel was reading the paper and she ses Joe how did Mister Kennedy ever come out about the short pants? I ses what Mister Kennedy? She ses why the Mister Kennedy who is ambassador to England. Are there any other Mister Kennedys?

I ses look Ethel there are Mister Kennedys all over town. I ses if you went to places where Irish people live and hollered for Mister Kennedy ninety fellows would come running. I ses what about the short pants?

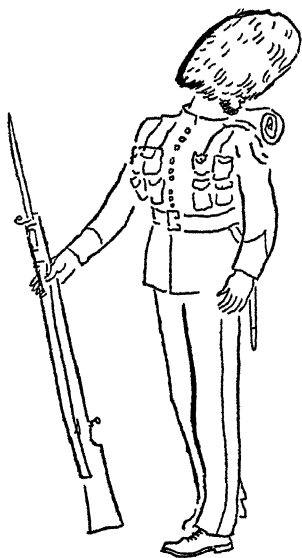
She ses why I read in the paper not long ago that Mister Kennedy ses he would not wear short pants when he went to see the King and I was wondering how he came out. I ses O you mean Joe Kennedy. I ses I never heard how he came out about the short pants. I ses I never knew he was in any argument about short pants but if Joe Kennedy ses he would not wear short pants you can bet he did not wear



## MY WIFE ETHEL

them. I ses what did they want him to wear short pants for?

Ethel ses well the paper ses it is the custom to wear short pants when you go to see the King. I ses why? Ethel ses the paper did not say why. I ses well they tell me that Joe Kennedy is a tough turkey and if he ses he would not wear any pants at all to see the King he would not wear any.



Ethel ses why Joe Turp that is silly. How would somebody look going to see the King without any pants and what would the King do? I ses maybe he would laugh. Ethel ses I bet he would send for the cops and have somebody without any pants put in jail. What do you think Mister Roosevelt would do if somebody came to see him without any pants?

## SHORT PANTS

I ses Ethel I guess it would depend on who the somebody was. I ses I guess if it was Mister Farley without any pants Mister Roosevelt would laugh himself sick. I ses what is the idea of that custom of wearing short pants when you go to see the King anyway? I ses what is the matter with long pants?

Ethel ses well Joe it has always been more fashionable to wear short pants and every fellow does it and thinks nothing of it except somebody like Mister Kennedy. I bet anything I know why Mister Kennedy does not want to wear short pants. I ses why? Ethel ses I bet it is because he has thin scrawny old legs and is afraid to let people look at them. I bet he is afraid people would laugh right out loud at his legs and make fun of them.

I ses see here Ethel it is not patriotic to talk about the United States Ambassadors legs like that. I ses now you bring it up I remember reading something about those short pants myself. I ses the reason Mister Kennedy would not wear them is because he is a one hundred per cent American.

Ethel ses what has being an American got to do with short pants? I ses Americans do

## MY WIFE ETHEL

not wear pants like that. I ses Americans always wear long manly pants. Ethel ses why Joe Turp George Washington wore short pants. I ses how do you know? She ses I have seen lots of picture of him in short pants. He had nice legs too. I bet anything if Mister Kennedy had nice legs like George Washington you could not keep him out of short pants. Are you an American Joe?

I ses of course I am an American. I ses I am as American as Joe Kennedy and Ethel ses well you wore short pants a couple of years ago when you played golf only your legs did not look as nice as George Washingtons. I ses Ethel kindly leave my legs out of this. I ses my legs are as good looking as anybody's legs and Ethel ses O no Joe they are awfully scrawny. I bet Mister Kennedy has legs just like you or he would be proud to have people look at them.

I ses well I do not know anything about Mister Kennedy's legs. I ses I have never seen them and what is more I do not want to see them. Ethel ses well I bet he has funny looking knobby knees like you and that is why he will not wear short pants. I bet if he had nice look-

## SHORT PANTS

ing legs like Errol Flynns in the movies he would wear the shortest pants in the world.

I ses well it is certainly a fine thing for somebody's wife to go around looking at men's legs like Errol Flynns and then knocking their own husbands legs and Ethel ses why Joe you know you look at ladies legs and talk about them when they are nice looking. I ses well that is different. I ses anyway I do not think you should criticise the United States Ambassadors legs when you do not know anything about them. I ses you ought to say it is a great thing for him not to wear short pants because he is an American.

Ethel ses well Joe I will tell you what I will do. If you will write a letter to Mister Kennedy and get him to show that his legs are not scrawny and his knees knobby but are as good looking as George Washingtons or Errol Flynns I will not say anything more to you about it and I ses Ethel you are not going to say anything more about it to me to-night anyway because I am going to bed and good night.

Ethel ses good night Joe sleep tight but I bet anything Mister Kennedy not only has scrawny

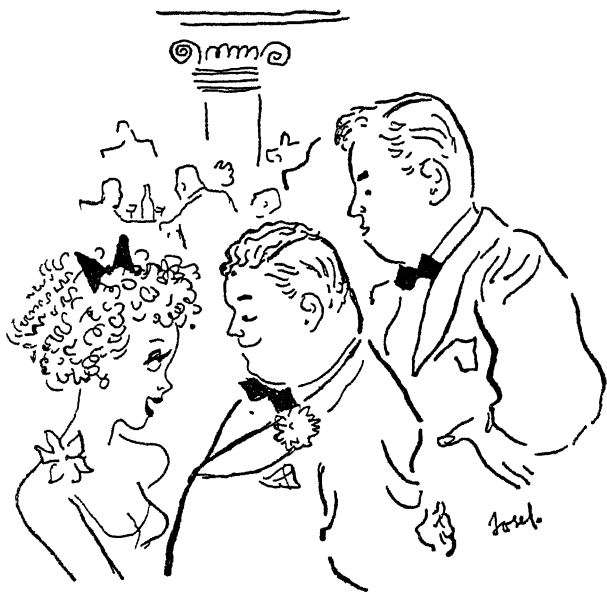
## MY WIFE ETHEL

legs and knobby knees but that they are bow legs too so I guess he is pretty smart to stay out of short pants after all.

Yours truly

JOE TURP.

## 10. CAFE SOCIETY



*Brooklyn, June 6.*

**D**EAR SIR last week I got a raise in salary and when I went home and told my wife Ethel she ses why Joe that is wonderful. Now you can take me stepping to celebrate it.

I ses all right baby where do you want to go? She ses Joe I want to go over to the Stork Club

## MY WIFE ETHEL

and see the cafe society. I ses what is the cafe society? Ethel ses well it is the society that you see in places like the Stork Club. I have been reading about it in the papers and it must be wonderful.

I ses well Ethel honey nothing is too good for a winner. I ses I will take you to the Stork Club and you can see all the cafe society you want. So I put on my tux and she put on her new evening dress and we went to the Stork Club and had dinner and knocked off a couple of rhumbas and I ses to Ethel where is the cafe society?

She ses why Joe all these people here eating and drinking and dancing are the cafe society. I ses well they look like anybody else to me. I ses they do not look any different to me than the people I see at Grogans over in Flatbush Avenue. Ethel ses O Joe you are wrong. They are much different. You can see they are a lot classier than the people you find in Grogans and I am surprised you do not notice it.

I ses what is classier about them? Ethel ses well it is the way they look. I only wish I knew some of their names. I bet anything they are the very same names I read in the papers.

## CAFE SOCIETY

I ses well Ethel I see a waiter over in the corner that used to work in Grogans. I ses if you like I will call him over and maybe he will tell us who somebody is. I ses his name is Pietro and he is a nice fellow. Ethel ses now Joe Turp don't you be talking to waiters like they was old friends of yours the way you always do. What would the cafe society think of us? I ses well he is an old friend of mine and what do I care what anybody thinks? Ethel ses well I do so never mind that waiter. Joe do you think anybody has noticed my new dress?

I ses baby there is not so much of your dress for them to notice but I bet they have noticed that. Ethel ses noticed what? I ses noticed that there is not so much of it to notice. She ses I do not know what you mean. This dress cost sixteen ninety-five and it is the latest thing. I think those ladies at that table over in the corner noticed it. I ses well baby anybody that did not notice that dress and what is in it must be blind. I ses now you just set here a minute while I go brush my hair and then we will show these chumps some more about dancing.

Ethel ses that is sweet of you Joe but don't



## MY WIFE ETHEL

you go sneaking over to talk to that waiter and then I went away for about five minutes and when I got back a big fat fellow was standing at our table and talking to Ethel. Just as I come up behind him he ses to her did anybody ever tell you that you are beautiful? I took him by the collar and turned him around and I ses yes I have told her that. I ses kindly take a walk before I flatten you.

Ethel ses why Joe what is the matter with you? This gentleman thought he knew me and came over and spoke to me. He is just mistaken. I ses yes I know about those mistakes. I ses I used to make them myself. I ses it is a fine thing if a man cannot leave his wife setting for a minute somewhere without some tramp making passes at her. He ses who are you calling a tramp? I ses you. I ses now you go away before I have to cripple you all up.

So the fellow went away and Ethel ses Joe I was never so mortified in my life. Anybody can see that was a nice fellow and he was just admiring me. I bet anything he is somebody in the cafe society and what will they think of us now? But that is just the way you always are Joe Turp. Any time anybody admires me you

## CAFE SOCIETY

have to show you are nothing but a roughneck from Brooklyn.

I ses see here Ethel the last time we was in Grogans all a fellow ses to you was Oh Oh when you went past him. I ses anybody is liable to say Oh Oh to a pretty girl like you when she goes past but right away you ses you had been insulted and wanted me to slug the fellow. I ses now a fellow comes right out and makes passes at you and you claim he is only admiring you.

Ethel ses yes but the other time was in Grogans and fellows there mean Oh Oh a lot different than fellows in the cafe society do when they tell a girl she is beautiful. Joe I think you owe that fellow an apology. I ses well all right if you feel that way about it so I looked around for the fellow but could not see him and then I called Pietro the waiter and asked him if he knew who the fellow was and where he had gone.

Pietro ses yes his name is Smith. The boss just threw him out for the second time to-night. I ses why? Pietro ses because he is a no good and the boss does not allow him in here but he sneaks in every time he gets a chance. Ethel

## MY WIFE ETHEL

ses Joe I think it is time for us to go home. You have to get up early. I ses thanks Pietro glad to see you. He ses likewise.

When we got home Ethel ses to me Joe do you know you told that Mister Smith a lie when you ses you have told me I am beautiful. All you ever told me is that I am pretty and beautiful sounds more romantic. I ses well Ethel baby I am telling you now you are beautiful and she ses tell me something else Joe. Tell me about the mistakes you ses you used to make like Mister Smith and I ses good night Ethel.

Yours truly  
JOE TURP.

## II. UNITED KINGDOM CUVEE

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*Brooklyn, June 18.*

DEAR SIR last night my wife Ethel ses to me Joe I bet it is a lot of fun being a Roosevelt. I ses why? She ses because if you are a Roosevelt you are always going to some other Roosevelts wedding and drinking United Kingdom Cuvee.

I ses what is United Kingdom Cuvee anyway? Ethel ses ho I knew you would not know that. It is champagne. I ses how do you know? She ses because it ses so here in the paper. It ses they are going to drink five hundred bottles of United Kingdom Cuvee at John Roosevelts wedding and then it ses that United Kingdom Cuvee is champagne.

I ses you mean to tell me the Roosevelts are going to drink that many bottles of champagne? I ses why that is enough champagne to make half of Brooklyn cockeyed. Ethel ses dont be silly Joe. Of course the Roosevelts are not going to drink all of it. They are going

## MY WIFE ETHEL

to have a lot of guests and guests always drink more of anything you have to drink than anybody else. They are going to have chicken a la king too Joe.

I ses I know what that is. I ses that is chicken all messed up so nobody can tell if it is chicken or what. I ses I do not like my chicken that way. I ses give me my chicken fried or roasted or even boiled the way the Jewish fellows fix it but not all messed up. Ethel ses well it is more fashionable a la king. That is why I bet it is fun to be a Roosevelt because they are always so fashionable at their weddings. They are going to have vanilla ice cream with fresh strawberries and assorted cakes and demitassys.

I ses is all that in the paper? Ethel ses yes and cold whole salmon mayonnaise and lettuce and tomato and cucumber salad. I ses cold what? She ses cold whole salmon mayonnaise. I ses see here Ethel I have seen salmons at the fish market and they are bigger than Shetland ponies. I ses nobody can eat a whole salmon not even a Roosevelt and she ses O I guess they will finally cut it up in little pieces but it is very fashionable to serve it whole.

## UNITED KINGDOM CUVEE

I ses well it does not sound like much of a feed to me and Ethel ses yes it is pretty nice. It is just like I would want at my own wedding if I had it to do over again especially the United Kingdom Cuvee. That is champagne. I ses so you told me before. I ses what was the matter with what you had at your wedding? I ses you had hamburgers and plenty of beer and Ethel ses yes Joe but that is not fashionable. I am mortified every time I think of it now.

I ses I bet those Roosevelts would like it better than champagne and chicken a la king if they had their choice. I ses especially Mister Roosevelt. I ses he looks to me like a hamburgers and beer man more than he does a champagne and chicken a la king man. Ethel ses why Joe Turp it would be terribly unfashionable to serve stuff like that at a Roosevelts wedding. The guests would be horrified.

I ses well Ethel maybe they would but they would have something that would stick to their ribs instead of champagne and chicken a la king. I ses they must be going to have something else to drink besides champagne and Ethel says yes the paper ses they will have temperance drinks too. I guess that means soft

## MY WIFE ETHEL

drinks. I ses well that is a waste of money. I ses I am glad we did not get an invitation to that wedding because I might get hold of those temperance drinks by mistake.

Ethel ses dont be silly Joe. You know you would never make a mistake like that. I notice you always smell everything before you drink it. I ses well anyway I am glad we was not invited and Ethel ses I wish we had been. I ses why? She ses because then I could have brought some of those nice things to eat back to old Missus Grimshaw.

I ses what is the idea of that? Ethel ses why you know very well Missus Grimshaw is on the relief and she does not get enough out of it to buy herself a square meal. I would have brought back some of those nice things like the chicken a la king and some United Kingdom Cuvee. That is the champagne Joe. I ses listen Ethel I ought to know it is champagne by now. I ses you have told me often enough and she ses well I just want to make sure you understand it. Besides I like to say the name.

I ses well dont be trying to say it the next time we go into Grogans joint or people will think we are getting swelled up. Ethel ses I

## UNITED KINGDOM CUVEE

guess Missus Grimshaw would not like the cold whole salmon mayonnaise because she has to eat everything cold that she gets as it is. She does not get enough money from the relief to pay for gas to cook on but I bet she would love that chicken a la king and that United Kingdom Cuvee and maybe some of those little cakes.

I ses yes Missus Grimshaw and fourteen million others and Ethel ses what do you mean? I ses never mind now honey but I tell you what I am going to do for you. I ses I am going to take you down to Grogans and buy you something to eat and Ethel says why that is marvellous Joe. I have talked so much about what the Roosevelts are going to have that I am starving. I ses what do you think you would like to eat baby? Ethel ses why you know very well Joe it is hamburgers and beer.

Yours truly

JOE TURP.



## 12. THE LOUIS-SCHMELING FIGHT



*Brooklyn, June 24.*

**D**EAR SIR last night I took my wife to see Joe Louis and Max Schmeling fight and we had seats in the bleachers that my boss gave me for a present and as soon as we sat

## THE LOUIS—SCHMELING FIGHT

down Ethel ses Joe where do you suppose Robert Taylor is setting?

I ses what Robert Taylor? She ses why the movie star. I read in the paper that he would be at the fight and I would like to get a look at him. I ses I do not know where he is setting but I guess he is down there in front somewhere. She ses do you think he will like the fight Joe?

I ses Ethel what do I care if Robert Taylor likes the fight or not? I ses I only hope I like it. She ses do you think you will Joe? I ses I will if Louis murders that guy. She ses what guy? I ses Schmeling of course. She ses well what if Schmeling murders Louis? I ses then I will not like it. I ses I have two bucks bet on Louis with Freddie Krausemeyer. Ethel ses Joe do you know Robert Taylor came a long ways to see the fight? He came all the way from California. Dont you think that is interesting?

I ses Ethel I came a long ways to see it myself and I am still a long ways from it back here in the bleachers. I ses I might as well staid in Brooklyn and got it on the radio at Grogans. Ethel ses O no I am glad to be here. I may get to see Robert Taylor yet. Joe can I holler here

## MY WIFE ETHEL

like I do at the fights at the Ridgewood Grove?

I ses honey you can holler all you want and she ses can I holler kill him? I ses you can holler kill him to Louis but not Schmeling and she ses why Joe I like to holler kill him at whichever one is pounding the other fellow and I do not care whichever one it is. I ses well think of my two bucks and do not holler that to Schmeling. She ses why he could not hear me from back here and I ses no but it is just the idea of it.

She ses all right Joe but I wish I had borrowed somebodys field glasses and then maybe I could see Robert Taylor even from here. I ses Ethel what is the idea of being so anxious to see Robert Taylor when a big championship fight is going on? She ses why Joe what is the sense of going some place where Robert Taylor is and not seeing him? I ses all right all right all right and she ses Joe I wish I had some peanuts. I always like to eat peanuts when I am setting in the bleachers at the baseball game.

I ses this is not a baseball game and Ethel ses I know that but it reminds me of one because I am setting in the bleachers and I

## THE LOUIS—SCHMELING FIGHT

would really like some peanuts. I ses all right baby and I looked around for a fellow selling peanuts but there was none of those fellows in sight and Ethel ses Joe I guess you will have to go down to one of those places under the stand. I saw a place there where they was selling peanuts when we was coming in.

I ses all right Ethel and I went down under the stand to find the place but I could not find it right away and while I was looking around there was a lot of yelling and I ran back up into the bleachers to my seat and Ethel ses did you get my peanuts? I ses no what happened? She ses why Joe everybody ses he knocked him out. I ses who knocked who out? She ses why everybody ses Louis knocked Schmeling out.

I ses did he? She ses well everybody ses he did. I ses didn't you see it? She ses why no Joe. I was setting here looking away off down yonder and wondering where Robert Taylor was setting and when everybody jumped up that big old fat man there stood right in front of me and I did not see a thing. I just set here and hollered kill him but I did not know whichever one I was hollering at. Joe I wish you would speak to that big old fat man about

## MY WIFE ETHEL

standing up in front of people at fights especially ladies.

I ses it is a fine thing for a fellow to come all the way from Brooklyn to see a fight and then get sent looking for peanuts and not see it. Ethel ses maybe you did not go to the right place Joe. I saw a place right under the stand where they was selling them when we came in. I ses yes it is certainly a fine thing for a fellow to get free tickets to a fight he has been dreaming and thinking about for weeks and then not see it because he has to go looking for peanuts. I ses I will remember it as long as I live.

Ethel ses O I do not want any now. I ses any what? She ses any peanuts. Besides Joe how can you remember something as long as you live that you did not see? I ses I am going to remember not seeing something. I ses Ethel lets you and me go home now. I ses I am terribly disappointed about not seeing the fight and she ses why Joe there is nothing to be disappointed about because it did not last hardly any time at all. Besides think of how disappointed I am in not getting to see Robert Taylor. Anyway Joe I think it was sweet of

## THE LOUIS—SCHMELING FIGHT

you to go after those peanuts even if you did not get them.

When we was on the way home in the subway Ethel started laughing and I ses what are you laughing about? She ses I am laughing about Robert Taylor coming all the way from California to see a little short something like the fight. I bet he is pretty mad. I ses I bet he is not as mad as I am and Ethel ses O Joe that reminds me of another thing. You never did speak to that big old fat man about standing in front of me.

Yours truly

JOE TURP

### 13. THE COP SAYS GET BACK THERE



*Brooklyn July 15.*

**D**EAR SIR I had a day off yesterday and so I got out the old can and drove my wife Ethel down to Floyd Bennett Airport to see Howard Hughes come back from around the world. There was a big crowd there and it was pretty hot and we had to stand around quite awhile waiting behind a wire fence and every now and then a cop kept saying get back there.

Finally my wife Ethel ses look cop why dont you get back there yourself? The cop ses get back where? Ethel ses why back there where

## THE COP SAYS GET BACK THERE

you mean for us to get back there to. The cop ses O a smart dame hay? I ses see here cop that is no dame. I ses that is my wife Ethel. The cop ses what am I supposed to do about that? I ses well you are supposed to be a little polite to somebodys wife and he ses tell her to stop asking me riddles then. Get back there.

Ethel ses Joe I have always told you not to pay any attention to cops. If they knew any better they would not be cops. The cop ses any better what? Ethel ses never mind and he ses get back there. I ses cop I see Mayor Laguardia over there and suppose I went and told him how impolite his cops are? The cop ses well you would have to be a bull frog or something like that to jump over this fence to see him. Get back there.

Ethel ses is that all you know? The cop ses all of what? Ethel ses get back there? The cop ses lady please. I am just a cop and I do not want any trouble with you. Get back there. Ethel ses I bet you do not live in Brooklyn. The cop ses no I am up in the Bronx and Ethel ses thats just what I thought. The cop ses yes you are a smart dame all right. Get back there.



## MY WIFE ETHEL

I ses cop what time does Mister Hughes get here? The cop ses what time do you want him? I ses O I was just asking because we are getting tired of waiting. He ses you are getting tired are you? Well take a look at me. Get back there.

Ethel ses Joe what makes people fly around the world? I ses why because it is a wonderful thing to do. She ses is it fun? I ses how do I know if it is fun? I ses I never flew around the world myself. Ethel ses I do not see how it could be any fun. The paper ses they are always in an awful hurry and they never have time for shaves or to look around and see something. The paper ses all they do when they get some place is to put in more gas.

I ses look Ethel this is something very big. I ses Mister Hughes is goin around the world quicker than anybody ever did it before and Ethel ses yes I know. I read it in the paper but it is awfully expensive and nobody else can afford to go that quick so what good is that? Joe I wonder if Katherine Hepburn is anywhere around here?

I ses what would Katherine Hepburn be doing here? Ethel ses the paper ses she is very

## THE COP SAYS GET BACK THERE

much interested in Howard Hughes so I would think she would be here to see him zoom in. I am here and I am not very interested in him the same way except I want to see him when he zooms in. I ses what do you mean zooms in? Ethel ses the paper ses that is what he always does. He zooms in. Joe ask that cop if Katherine Hepburn is here. I would like to see her. She is awfully cute in the pictures.

I ses look cop and the cop ses get back there. I ses well all right but I was just going to ask you a civil question. The cop ses O it is you again is it? Get back there. Ethel ses Joe do you know he is the lanky millionaire? I ses who this cop? Ethel ses no Howard Hughes. The paper always ses he is the lanky millionaire. He has got all kinds of money. Joe if I had all kinds of money I would not want to go around the world so fast. I would want to stop off at places and spend some of my money and have a good time.

I ses Ethel you do not understand that this is a great thing for science and she ses O yes I do. I read that in the papers myself. It is a great thing for science and for the Worlds Fair. I ses what has the Worlds Fair got to do with it?

## MY WIFE ETHEL

Ethel ses why the paper ses Grover Whalen with the moustache sent the lanky millionaire around the world to advertise the Worlds Fair. You can ask that cop. The cop ses get back there.

By and by Howard Hughes plane showed up all right and Ethel pointed at it in the sky and ses now Joe watch the lanky millionaire zoom in. I ses I will if you quit pushing me and she ses I have to push you because somebody is pushing me. Hay cop suppose you stop this pushing? The cop ses get back there. When the plane landed and Howard Hughes got out Ethel ses why Joe the lanky millionaire is cute. I wonder how it feels to fly around the world and have all kinds of money.

I ses Ethel you are looking at a great guy who has done a great thing. Ethel ses yes I am looking at the lanky millionaire. I ses I tip my hat to him for what he has just done and Ethel ses well I can always say I saw him zoom in. Now we better get started Joe or we will get caught in an awful jam on the roads. I ses all right Ethel and she ses cop we are going now. The cop ses get back there.

Yours truly

JOE TURP.

## 14. AT THE RACES

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*Saratoga Springs, August 1.*

DEAR SIR last week my boss sent me to Albany to see a fellow about some business and I got out the old can and took my wife Ethel along and after I saw the fellow we drove over here to Saratoga Springs where the horse races are going on.

Ethel ses Joe this is the most wonderful thing that ever happened to me because now I will get to see the beautiful society ladies that I read so much about in the paper. They are always in Saratoga Springs for the horse races. I ses yes and maybe we can win a bet on them. She ses on the beautiful society ladies Joe? I ses no on the horse races.

So we went to the race track and I bought two seats in the grandstand and there was a dark skinny fellow without any coat on setting next to Ethel and after awhile she ses to him pardon me mister but where are all the beautiful society ladies? The fellow ses well girlie I do not know much about the society ladies but you are beautiful enough for me.

## MY WIFE ETHEL

I leaned over and ses none of that stuff buddy. I ses you are speaking to my wife Ethel and he ses O excuse me friend but you cannot rule a guy off for trying can you? I ses well no but no more of that stuff and he ses if you go out back of the grandstand where they parade the horses before the races I guess you will find what you are looking for. That is where the society dudes hang out.

I ses much obliged buddy and he ses friend I can give you a right good thing in this next race. It is thirty to one and cannot miss. All you have to do for this information is to bet a couple of boffoes for me.

Ethel ses why Joe that is a wonderful idea. I ses thanks buddy but I have been around these places before. I ses come on Ethel lets go and when we was going she ses why Joe what is the matter with you? That gentleman was only trying to do you a favor. I ses Ethel that is no gentleman that is a tout. I ses he takes us for a couple of marks and she ses O Joe you think there is something wrong with everybody and I ses well there generally is.

She ses well I do not see why you should turn down a chance to win some money just

## AT THE RACES

because you are mad at that poor gentleman. I ses what makes you think I am mad at him? She ses you always get mad at everybody that ses I am beautiful. I ses Ethel I tell you the fellow is a tout and it would be just like throwing our money out the window to bet on anything he ses. She ses well all right Joe but he sounded sincere. I ses a tout has to sound sincere or he is not a tout. I ses if he knows anything about the horse races he would not be looking for somebody to bet two bucks on something for him.

Ethel ses well Joe lets forget it and go see the beautiful society ladies where he ses. So we went out back of the grandstand and they were walking a lot of horses around under the trees and a bunch of fellows and dames were watching them and I ses well Ethel I guess those are your beautiful society ladies. She ses why Joe I am surprised. I ses what are you surprised at? She ses why they are not so beautiful. They are not as beautiful as the horses. I ses well maybe we are not seeing any of the real good ones and she ses another thing Joe look at those hats.

I ses what is the matter with the hats? Ethel

## MY WIFE ETHEL

ses why I would not wear them to a dog fight. Half of them are out of style and some of those ladies look as if they had put their dresses on in the dark. I ses well I do not see anything wrong with putting your dresses on in the dark if you get them on and she ses why Joe if I dressed like that you would not go out with me anywhere. I wonder where their jewels are?

I ses what jewels? Ses she the jewels that beautiful society ladies are supposed to wear. I ses well Ethel I guess they have got them locked up at home. I ses I have seen some fellows around here that would make me lock up the coal if I lived in Saratoga Springs and she ses well I am awfully disappointed Joe. I thought they would all have on the Hope diamond. I ses what is that? She ses O it is a diamond as big as a football and I ses how could they all wear one diamond at the same time? Ethel ses well I mean I thought they would all have some that big.

I ses well now you go back to the grandstand and I will go to the betting ring and find a fellow from Brooklyn I know who works for Tim Mara the bookmaker and maybe he will

## AT THE RACES

give me a good tip on something in this race. I ses I would like to win our expenses here. Ethel ses all right Joe but be awfully careful because you know we cannot afford to lose any money.

So I went to the betting ring and the fellow I know told me to bet on a horse that he said would walk in and I got so excited about what he told me that I bet all the money I had and that was twenty dollars. Then I watched the race from down by the rail because I did not want Ethel to know I was betting all my money and worry her but the horse did not walk in. He ran away back somewhere and I waited quite a while before going to see Ethel and tell her the bad news and I was glad I had given her four dollars that morning because I just remembered we was about out of gas for the old can.

When I finally got back to her she was jumping up and down and screaming and she had money in both hands and I ses Ethel have you gone crazy? She ses Yes Joe almost. That gentleman who wanted you to bet for him took my four dollars and put it on the horse that just came in and he brought back sixty-two





## AT THE RACES

dollars and we divided it up and do you know what Joe?

I ses no what? She ses why the gentleman ses I am more beautiful when I am excited than ever. Do you think so Joe? I ses in spades sweets in spades.

Yours truly

JOE TURP.

## 15. RED FOX JACKET

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*Brooklyn, August 12.*

DEAR SIR I got up late last Sunday morning and after breakfast I started to read the paper to see how the Russians were doing with the Japs and after I read awhile it said continued on page four and I turned to page four and most of page four had been cut out and there was nothing there for me to read.

Then I went back to the first page to read about what Tom Dewey was doing and that said continued on page eight and when I turned to page eight most of that had been cut out too and so was page ten and page fourteen and several other pages.



## RED FOX JACKET

I ses to my wife Ethel see here Ethel who has been cutting up the Sunday paper so that every page something is continued to is all gone? She ses why I have been cutting it Joe. I ses what is the idea anyway? I ses I have started to read five or six different things now and they are all continued on some other page and that page has been cut out everywhere. I ses now I only know about half of everything I started to read. I ses that is a fine thing to happen to a fellow with the Sunday paper.

Ethel ses why Joe I only cut out the fur ads. I ses what do you mean fur ads? She ses why the ads about the fur sales in all the stores. I ses Ethel I do not quite get you and she ses well you know what furs are that come off animals and that are made into coats and capes and things for ladies to wear dont you? I ses O those kind of furs eh? Ethel ses yes those kind.

I ses do you mean to tell me they have got ads in the papers now about things you wear in the winter when it is hotter than the dickens all over this town? Ethel ses certainly. This is when you get the biggest bargains and I have

## MY WIFE ETHEL

been cutting out the ads and saving them to study them for the styles. Lots of ladies do that.

I ses well it looks to me like a waste of time besides spoiling the paper for anybody who likes to find news in it and Ethel ses O no Joe. It is the best way to do because suppose you are thinking of buying a mink coat that costs three thousand dollars you look at all the ads and see how the styles are. It is the same way if you are thinking of buying an ermine wrap for thirty-five hundred or a cape.

I ses thirty-five hundred what? She ses thirty-five hundred dollars. I ses suppose who is thinking of buying something for thirty-five hundred dollars? She ses why anybody even me. I ses Ethel sweets are you feeling all right? She ses yes Joe I feel swell. I ses well it is pretty hot and people sometimes feel bad from the heat and do not know it right away. I ses did you say thirty-five hundred dollars? She ses yes that's what I ses Joe.

I ses have you got fur ads saved up about something that costs thirty-five hundred dollars? She ses sure I have. They are the swellest styles of all Joe. I ses well Ethel if you art

## RED FOX JACKET

figuring on getting something that costs thirty-five hundred dollars I guess I will now go down to the river and drop myself in. Ethel ses why Joe you are the silliest thing I ever heard of. Of course I am not thinking of getting something for thirty-five hundred dollars. Where would I get thirty-five hundred dollars?

I ses that was what I was wondering and she ses but I have got a right to study the ads and think of how I would look in one of them havent I? I ses in one of what? She ses well in one of the red fox jackets like they show in the ads. I ses sweets I will bet you would look better than anybody in this whole world. She ses in a red fox jacket Joe? I ses in a green fox jacket for that matter and she ses O Joe nobody ever saw a green fox jacket and I ses all right Ethel make it red then.

I ses sweets just setting here thinking of how you would look makes me wish I knew where I could rob a bank and get the thirty-five hundred dollars to buy it for you and she ses why Joe a red fox jacket does not cost thirty-five hundred dollars or anywheres near it.

## MY WIFE ETHEL

I ses well no matter what it costs I would like to see you in one and she ses are you sure Joe? I ses I am certain but it is too hot to talk about furs and if you will get your hat on I will take you to see the Dodgers play this afternoon. She ses thanks Joe and I sure am glad you would like to see me in a red fox jacket.

Then she took a clipping out of her apron pocket that was all creased up and she ses listen to this Joe. I can get a beautiful luxuriant red fox jacket for ninety-eight dollars and there are only two at this remarkable reduction for a limited time. A small deposit of five dollars down and two dollars a week and by next fall you will own this glamorous slenderizing jacket. Do not wait. That is what the ad ses Joe. You can read it yourself.

I ses I do not want to read it Ethel. I ses I will take your word for it. She ses well you ses yourself you would like to see me in a red fox jacket and I ses all right sweets I guess that a red fox jacket is just suited to you so you go pay the deposit to-morrow but I would think you would hate to wear a relations fur. She ses O Joe I thank you a zillion times but that

## RED FOX JACKET

remark sounds funny to me. What do you mean a relations fur? I ses Ethel lets go to the ball game.

Yours truly  
JOE TURP.



## 16. ETHEL'S UNCLE DAN AND WAR



*Brooklyn, September 1.*

**D**EAR SIR the other night my wife Ethel ses Joe if there was a war would you go to it? I ses if there was a war where? She ses why anywheres. Do you have to have a war some special place to know if you would go to it or not?

I ses do you mean a war that the United States was in? She ses certainly thats what I mean. I ses well how on earth did you happen to think of such a thing? She ses O my Uncle Dan was over this afternoon and he was talking about it. He ses there is liable to be a war everywheres before long and that the United States was bound to be in it. Joe would you go?

I ses Ethel all I have ever heard from your Uncle Dan since I married you is something about war. I ses every time he comes to this house to borrow two bucks he fights the one he was in all over again. Ethel ses yes my

## ETHEL'S UNCLE DAN AND WAR

Uncle Dan was a very brave soldier. I ses yes so I have heard him say. Ethel ses he is the one who saved France. My Uncle Dan and General Pershing was very close.

I ses Ethel I do not know about General Pershing but your Uncle Dan has always been close. I ses I bet the only time he ever saw General Pershing was in a parade. Ethel ses why Joe my Uncle Dan keeps a picture of General Pershing right in his room and he ses he always salutes it when he goes to bed at night and when he gets up in the morning.

I ses yes and that is the hardest work your Uncle Dan does all day long. She ses well Joe you know Uncle Dan lost his health in the war. He caught pneumonia and never really got over it. I ses Ethel he did not catch pneumonia in the war. I ses your Moms told me that he caught that pneumonia when he got back home and it was a year after the war and Ethel ses yes he was weak and run down from the war so it was just the same as catching it in the war.

I ses well I suppose you gave him the usual two bucks and Ethel ses no Joe I only gave him a dollar and it was worth it for the advice

## MY WIFE ETHEL

he gave me for you. He ses for me to tell you if you are thinking of going to war not to do it. He ses a fellow is a sap to go to war. He told me how he suffered when he was in France. Joe do you know soldiers do not have mattresses to sleep on? Joe would you go to war?

I ses look Ethel in the first place there is not going to be no war with the United States in it. I ses in the second place if there was a war I would not have anything to say about whether I would go or not because they could make me go. Ethel ses now Joe that is what my Uncle Dan was giving me the advice about it. He knows how you can keep from going to war even if they try to make you go.

I ses how? Ethel ses Uncle Dan ses all you have to do is shoot your finger off and that will fix you so they will not want you. I ses well your Uncle Dan ought to have thought of that when they made him go to war and she ses yes that is exactly what he ses. Uncle Dan ses if he had thought of it he would have saved himself all that suffering. He ses to tell you the first finger on the right hand is the one.



## MY WIFE ETHEL

I ses look Ethel I am not going to shoot off any fingers to keep from going to war. I ses that would be cowardly and besides I would not have the nerve. She ses yes Joe but what would I do when you was in the war? I ses you would go to work and she ses but think how I would miss you.

I ses Ethel kindly do not worry about something that is not going to happen. I ses before we have another war I will be too old to go. Ethel ses well Uncle Dan ses the situation is very bad. He ses look at all the wars every place right now. He ses everybody in Europe will be in a war pretty soon and then the United States will have to get in because they will sink our ships and drown our citizens.

I ses who will sink our ships? Ethel ses Uncle Dan did not say. I ses did he say when he is going to pay back all those two bucks he has got off us? Ethel ses no but he ses that when you are at the war fighting for your country the profiteers will be grabbing everything in sight here at home like they did when he went to war. He ses conditions will be terrible. He ses they are terrible now.

I ses well Ethel one good thing your Uncle

## ETHEL'S UNCLE DAN AND WAR

Dan will not be back here very soon with any more talk like that. I ses he will wait until he thinks we have forgot that last buck like he always does when he gets two bucks. And Ethel ses O no Joe he is coming back here to-morrow. I ses well I like his gall what is he coming back to-morrow for?

Ethel ses well Joe the reason I gave him that dollar I told you about was because it was the only dollar I had. Uncle Dan is coming back to-morrow after the other dollar we owe him and he ses he will tell me how I can get to be a nurse if you do not want to shoot your finger off and have to go to war.

I ses Ethel let's go see a movie and she ses sure Joe there is a good one at the Paramount. That is what Uncle Dan wants the other dollar for. He is crazy to see it because it is a war picture.

Yours truly  
JOE TURP.

## 17. THE COP SAYS TURP TURP TURP



*Brooklyn, September 7.*

**D**EAR SIR the other night I got out the old bucket and me and my wife Ethel drove over to New York to see a friend of hers by the name of Kitty Carey on West 93rd Street who married a butcher.

Coming back down Broadway Ethel was driving and she ran through a red light at a corner and a young cop there blew his whistle at us and motioned her to pull over. I ses there now Ethel you see what you have done

## THE COP SAYS TURP TURP TURP

and she ses Joe you keep still and let me take care of this.

The cop come over and put his foot up on the running board on her side of the car and pulled out his pencil and pad and ses well where do you think you are going hay? Running through red lights hay? Let me see your drivers licence.

So Ethel showed him her licence but she did not say a word and when I started to say something she gave me a kick on the ankle and almost broke it. Then the cop ses well I guess I will just make you a little present of a ticket and Ethel ses very quiet listen cop if I was you I would not do that. The cop ses do what? Ethel ses give me a ticket.

The cop ses why not? Ethel ses well cop I am just telling you. I would not give me a ticket or you will be very sorry. The cop ses sorry for what? Ethel ses for giving me a ticket. The cop ses O I will hay? Ethel ses yes you will but remember I warned you. The cop ses wait a minute now. Let me see that licence of yours again.

He read Ethels licence very careful and then he ses out loud like he was talking to himself



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## MY WIFE ETHEL

Turp Turp Turp Turp and thinking hard. Finally he ses I never heard of no Turps. Where did you say you lived lady? Ethel ses why you can tell where we live by the address on that licence. We live in Brooklyn. The cop ses Turp Turp Turp Turp to himself again and then he looked at me and ses what about him?

Ethel ses well what about him? The cop ses who is he? Ethel ses he is my husband thats who he is. The cop ses O. Ethel ses O what? The cop ses just O lady. Well I guess I will give you this little note with my best regards. Ethel ses cop are you married? The cop ses yes I am. Ethel ses have you got any children? The cop ses not yet but soon and I hope its a boy. Ethel ses do you have a nice little home?

The cop ses my home is nice enough but what am I doing standing here answering questions like you was a judge? Who are you anyway and what right have you got to be asking me questions? Ethel ses cop everybody has got a right to ask a cop questions. How long have you been in the department? The cop ses well not very long but what has that got to do with me giving you this ticket?

## THE COP SAYS TURP TURP TURP

Ethel leaned out of the window and almost whispered to him and ses well cop if you are smart you will just stick that pencil back in your pocket and go on about your business. If you want to give me a ticket go ahead and give it to me but remember I tried to warn you. The cop ses well you ran through that red light didn't you? Ethel ses I am not going to say another thing to you. Just go ahead and give me that ticket but remember I warned you.

The cop stood there with his pencil in his mouth and his foot on the running-board and looking at her and thinking. He kept saying Turp Turp Turp Turp to himself. Then he ses who do you know in Brooklyn?

Ethel ses never you mind who we know. He ses are you related to somebody? Ethel ses cop we are related to lots of somebodys and the cop ses tell me some names. Ethel ses cop I told you I am not going to say anything more to you. If you want to give me that ticket just go ahead and let us go on home but I want you to tell your little wife that if you had only listened it would not have happened.

The cop ses she is not little and what would not have happened? Ethel ses never mind.

## MY WIFE ETHEL

The cop ses now see here lady you know you ran through that red light and you know thats against the law. I am just a cop and I am put here to see that people do not violate the law by running through red lights and things like that. You know yourself what would happen if we let everybody run through red lights. I am only doing my duty in giving you a ticket.

Ethel says all right give it to me but remember I told you.

The cop ses  
Turp Turp  
Turp Turp to  
himself and then  
he ses well now  
lady I will tell  
you what I will  
do. If you will  
promise not to  
do it again I will  
let you go this  
time and not  
give you a ticket  
and Ethel ses



now cop you are talking sense and I promise.  
Then she started the engine going and ses

## THE COP SAYS TURP TURP TURP

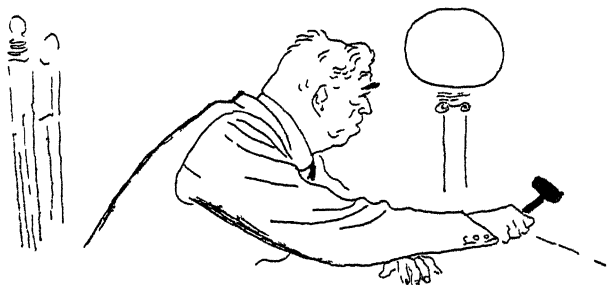
cop I hope its a boy too and that he turns out as nice as you and away we went leaving the cop standing there saying Turp Turp Turp Turp to himself.

I ses well Ethel sweets that was great and she ses yes and it was fun too wasnt it Joe? Let's run through another red light and do it again, I ses pull up Ethel and change seats with me. I ses I will drive the rest of the way home and I did.

Yours truly

JOE TURP.

## 18. ETHEL'S POPS AND THE MUSTARD PLASTER



*Brooklyn, September 15.*

**D**EAR SIR when I got home last night I ses to my wife Ethel see here Ethel what is this I hear about your Pops getting arrested and taken to court yesterday? Ethel ses why Joe how did you hear about that? I ses Sully the cop told me that is how I heard. I ses is it true? Ethel ses well it is true all right Joe but I was not going to tell you because you worry about every little thing.

I ses do you call a mans wifes father getting arrested and taken to court a little thing? Ethel ses well what is big about it? Lots of people get arrested and taken to court. My

## POPS AND THE MUSTARD PLASTER

Pops ses there is no justice in this world any way. I ses I thought your Pops was sick in bed with a cold and Ethel ses he was and that is how he come to get arrested and taken to court. It was my Moms fault.

I ses what do you mean it was your Moms fault? Ethel ses well Joe you know how my Moms is when anybody is sick with a cold. She puts a mustard plaster on their chests and that is what she did with my Pops and he hates mustard plasters because my Moms makes them too strong and they burn the dadbusted daylights out of him.

I ses Ethel never mind what kind of daylights they burn out of him and she ses well I am only telling you what my Pops ses Joe. He was over here this morning telling me what happened and he ses it was because my Moms mustard plasters always burn the dadbusted daylights out of him and they do too Joe. I remember she used to put them on my chest when I was little and got sick with colds. They would burn the dadbusted daylights out of anybody Joe.

I ses all right Ethel all right we will let it go at that. I ses tell me what happened to your



## MY WIFE ETHEL

Pops that got him arrested and taken to court and Ethel ses well as soon as my Moms put the mustard plaster on my Pops chest yesterday she had to go down to the store for something so he got out of bed and put on his clothes and went out and took the mustard plaster with him. Joe do you know how my Moms makes a mustard plaster?

I ses no and Ethel ses well she takes two pieces of thin cloth and puts a whole lot of mustard in between them like a sandwich and the mustard is awfully squashy. My Pops ses this one was the biggest my Moms ever made and weighed about two pounds and when he got out in the street with it he gave it a big throw because he was so mad.

I ses what was he mad about Ethel? Ethel ses why Joe he was mad about the mustard plaster burning the dadbusted daylights out of him that's what he was mad at. But he did not know that Tony the Italian fellow that sells the fruit off the push cart was coming around the corner when he gave the mustard plaster the big throw. Joe my Pops swears he did not know Tony was coming.

I ses what has Tony got to do with it?

## POPS AND THE MUSTARD PLASTER

Ethel ses why he has got everything to do with it. My Pops wadded the mustard plaster up a little when he gave it the big throw but it came unfolded just before it hit Tony right in the face and splattered mustard all over him. Some of it got in his eyes and he started to swear so awful in Italian and American too that the neighbors closed their windows. Joe did you ever get mustard in your eyes?

I ses no I never did but what did your Pops do then? Ethel ses why he went on down the street to Schultz Bar to buy a glass of beer and there was a fellow in there with a moustache who was knocking Mister Roosevelt and my Pops got in an argument with him. Joe you know my Pops will not stand for anybody knocking Mister Roosevelt. I ses Ethel I wish you would get around to telling me why your Pops got arrested and taken to court. Ethel ses O that was a mistake.

I ses how was it a mistake? She ses why they thought my Pops was Tony. While my Pops was arguing with the fellow who was knocking Mister Roosevelt Tony came in looking for my Pops to ask him about throwing the mustard plaster but his eyes were all swelled

## MY WIFE ETHEL

up and watery from the mustard in them and he could not see very good. Joe he could not tell my Pops from the other fellow so he hit him.

I ses who hit who? Ethel ses why Tony hit the fellow who was knocking Mister Roosevelt and that was when Schultz sent for Sully the cop and he arrested everybody there and took them to court. Joe if you ask me I think Sully the cop had little to do to arrest people he has known all his life. He took them before Magistrate Coogan and my Pops explained everything.

I ses O he did did he? How did he explain? Ethel ses why he blamed everything on my Moms because if she had not put the mustard plaster on his chest he would not have had it to throw and the mustard would not have got in Tony's eyes and he would not have hit the wrong fellow. Magistrate Cooney ses my Pops was dead right and let them all go except he fined the fellow who was knocking Roosevelt two dollars for disturbing the peace.

I ses Ethel where is your Pops now? She ses why Joe he is home in bed with a worse

## POPS AND THE MUSTARD PLASTER

cold than ever and he has got another mustard plaster on his chest burning the dadbusted daylight out of him.

Yours truly

JOE TURP.

## 19. ETHEL SINGS HUSKY MUSKY DUSKY

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*Brooklyn September 28.*

**D**EAR SIR the other night I took my wife Ethel to a show on some passes a friend of mine gave me and a dame came out and sang a song that everybody except me applauded and when we got home I ses to Ethel what was the idea of that dame singing the way she did?

Ethel ses what way Joe? I ses so slow and low and so away down deep in her throat? I ses another thing all the time she was singing she was screwing up her face and twisting her handkerchief in her fingers. I ses that is the way I mean. I ses why was that?

Ethel ses why Joe that was to show she was tormented. I ses what was she tormented about? I ses who was tormenting her? Ethel ses why Joe she was tormented by her thoughts. I ses what was she thinking about? Ethel ses why my goodness Joe she was thinking about her fellow. I ses what fellow?



## MY WIFE ETHEL

Ethel ses the fellow she lost. What other fellow would a lady be thinking about Joe? Why Joe you heard the song yourself.

I ses yes I heard something all right but I did not understand what I heard. I ses she sang so slow and so low that I did not catch more than a few words here and there and Ethel ses yes that was Husky Musky Dusky singing. I ses what does that mean? Ethel ses well Joe it means slow and low like this. Lo lo lo lo lo. You see Joe I make my voice catch in my throat like I was coughing up something. Lo lo lo lo lo. Why look Joe I can sing Husky Musky Dusky too.

I ses all right Ethel we will let it go at that and she ses no Joe listen good now. Lo lo lo lo lo. I ses please Ethel you will wake all the neighbors up with that noise. I ses what I want to know is what was the fellow to her? Ethel ses what fellow? I ses the fellow you ses the dame lost and was tormented about?

Ethel ses O that fellow. Why he was the one she loved and he went away. It was awfully sad the way she was tormented Joe. She was tormented by her thoughts about him. I ses where did the fellow go? Ethel ses why how

## ETHEL SINGS HUSKY MUSKY DUSKY

does anybody know where fellows go when they go away from those who love them? The songs never tell where they go. They just leave somebody to be tormented by their thoughts about them. Look Joe see if you think I have got it any better now. Lo lo lo lo lo.

I ses well what was the idea of her screwing her face up the way she did when she was singing? I ses if her fellow did come back and catch her with her singing with her face screwed up that way he would go on about his business again. Ethel ses Joe that is not a nice thing to say about that ladys face. It was 'not screwed up at all. That was just the way she holds her face when she is singing something to show how tormented she is in her soul.

I ses I thought you ses she was tormented in her thoughts and Ethel ses well it is the same thing. Everybody who is tormented holds their face a certain way. Look how I hold mine Joe. Lo lo lo lo lo. I ses Ethel I wish you would not make faces that way or that noise either and tell me what about the handkerchief that dame had. I ses was it necessary for her to be twisting that handkerchief like she was wringing something out?



## MY WIFE ETHEL

Ethel ses why that shows she is tormented too. If you are tormented you like to have something in your hands to twist like a handkerchief though sometimes you can twist your skirt. Wait and I will get something and twist it so you can see what I mean. Joe I think it is wonderful the way I can sing Husky Musky Dusky. Lo lo lo lo. You see I get better every time.

I ses Ethel the middle of the night is no time to be making noises like that and Ethel ses but Joe that is not noises it is Husky Musky Dusky. Lo lo lo lo. You just feel my throat away down here Joe and see where my voice catches. That is what makes it sound that way Joe. Does it sound just like the lady in the show Joe?

I ses well sweetheart I guess it sounds better because it could not sound any worse but you better save it until to-morrow because I have got to get some sleep. She ses all right Joe and I left her standing in front of the mirror looking at herself and going Lo lo lo lo lo and went to bed but I had not been asleep long before Ethel woke me up and ses Joe I know what is wrong.

## ETHEL SINGS HUSKY MUSKY DUSKY

I ses wrong with what? She ses with the way I sing Husky Musky Dusky. I ses why I thought you was doing it all right and Ethel ses no I knew there was something wrong. I ses well what is it? She ses it is because I am not tormented by my thoughts about losing any fellow. I ses well maybe I can fix it so you can lose me and she ses O no Joe I would rather have you than sing Husky Musky Dusky or than anything else in the world.

I ses all right then come to bed and she ses well I only wish I could be tormented by something except losing you. Lo lo lo lo lo. Is that any better Joe? I ses good night Ethel.

Yours truly

JOE TURP.

## 20. ETHEL'S POPS KNOCKS THE GOVERNMENT

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*Brooklyn, October 3.*

DEAR SIR the other night my wife Ethel ses to me Joe if you had a friend who had always stuck to you through thick and thin and who would be willing to fight and die for you would you trust him for a few miserable little old dollars?

I ses now wait a minute Ethel. I ses that question sounds like there is some catch to it. I ses you tell me what you are driving at before you go any farther. I ses I do not want to answer any questions before I know what they are about.

Ethel ses well would you? I ses would I what? She ses would you trust a friend who had always stuck to you through thick and thin and who would be willing to fight and die for you for a few miserable little old dollars? Why Joe that is a simple question and you can answer it yes or no.

I ses Ethel I do not know anybody who is

## POPS KNOCKS THE GOVERNMENT

willing to fight and die for me so how can I answer that question? She ses well you can give me some idea. I ses well all right then I guess I would trust them for a few dollars. I ses does that answer satisfy you?

She ses if somebody had worked for you a long long long time and given you money when they had it to keep you going would you give them a little credit when they got in a bad fix? I ses why I guess I would and Ethel ses then my Pops is right. The Government is a mean thing although my Pops ses something else about it too. Do you want to hear what my Pops ses about the Government Joe?

I ses no Ethel I can get along without that. I ses if your Pops was talking about the Government I can imagine what he ses. I ses what has got him going now? Ethel ses it is about his friend Carrigans house. You know his friend Carrigan who lives in Bayside Joe? I ses you mean the fellow your Pops is always arguing with? Ethel ses yes that is the one. Well the Government is going to take his house away from him.

I ses what for? Ethel ses because he borrowed a few miserable little old dollars off the

## MY WIFE ETHEL

Government quite awhile ago when times was very bad with him and he has not been able to pay it back. So the Government is going to take his house away from him. It is a cute little house Joe and my Pops is all upset about it. He was over here to-day telling me about it.

I ses well what has that got to do with all that stuff you was asking me about trusting a friend who would be willing to do for me? I ses if anybody thinks I am going to trust Carrigan for anything they are pretty much mistaken. I ses I do not know Carrigan so very well and he never was no friend of mine. I ses if anybody trusts him for anything it ought to be your Pops.

Ethel ses O it has not got anything to do with you Joe. It is the Government. My Pops ses the Government never had a better friend than Carrigan. He has stuck to it through thick and thin and would be willing to die for it if necessary and now it will not trust him for a few miserable little old dollars. My Pops ses that is the worst thing he ever heard of. Joe let me tell you just one thing my Pops ses the way he ses it about the Government.

I ses never mind Ethel. I ses a lot of people

## POPS KNOCKS THE GOVERNMENT

borrowed money off the Government on their houses and could not pay back and lost their houses and Ethel ses yes but my Pops ses that it is no way for the Government to do with its friends. My Pops ses Carrigans father and his grandfather too always helped the Government by paying it taxes and so did Carrigan. My Pops ses the money Carrigan borrowed was only money that really belonged to him.

I ses well Ethel it is too bad that Carrigan is going to lose his house and I am sorry to hear it and she ses you are not half as sorry as Carrigan I guess. My Pops ses Carrigan is in a bad mood about the Government though he never before ses a word against it. My Pops ses the Government will have a hard time finding a better friend than Carrigan has been to it and it is a dirty shame it is not willing to trust him for a few little old miserable dollars a little while longer.

I ses Ethel I guess business is business with the Government as well as everybody else and you cannot blame it much and she ses well you bet my Pops blames it much. My Pops ses what kind of a Government is it that helps a friend out of a hole one day and the next day

## MY WIFE ETHEL

turns around and shoves him back in the hole again? Joe I think some of the things my Pops ses about the Government are very interesting.

I ses well they do not interest me. I ses your Pops is always knocking the Government and Ethel ses yes but let me tell you something Joe Turp. Who do you suppose ses my Pops has the right idea in always knocking the Government? I ses I suppose Carrigan and Ethel ses why thats right Joe. How did you guess?

Yours truly

JOE TURP.

## 21. ETHEL'S DREAM HOUSE

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*Brooklyn, October 12.*

DEAR SIR the other day my wife Ethel showed me the picture of a house in the paper and she ses look Joe here is Mister Roosevelt's dream house.

I ses what is a dream house Ethel? She ses why it is a house that Mister Roosevelt has been dreaming of a long time and now he is going to build it for himself. He is going to build it just exactly the way he has always dreamed about it.

I ses what is the matter with the White House Ethel? I ses that is not hard to take is it? She ses O that is not Mister Roosevelt's own house Joe. That is just where he lives while he is President of the United States. I ses well nobody has told him to move yet have they? She ses no Joe but he wants a house of his very own like he has always dreamed.

I ses what about that house of his up the Hudson? I ses I saw a picture of that one day and it is no shanty either. I ses it would do for me in a pinch and Ethel ses yes but Joe he did



## MY WIFE ETHEL

not build that house and he did not have the say about how everything in it should be. I ses well I never heard of any man having the say about how everything should be in any house if he was a married man and Ethel ses why Joe you can have the say about anything in this house you want. What do you want to have the say about?

I ses well for one thing I do not like that thing there in the corner and I wish you would hide it somewheres and Ethel ses why Joe that is a lovers seat and very stylish and I would not think of hiding it. I ses all right now that I have had my say about everything in this house I think I will go to bed and she ses no wait a minute. I want to talk more about Mister Roosevelts dream house. I have got a dream house too Joe.

I ses you have? She ses certainly I have. I have had it ever since we was married. I ses where is your dream house? She ses well Joe that is just it. I have not decided just where to have it. What do you think of Bay Ridge Joe? I ses I have never thought about it. She ses it is beautiful there. Flushing is nice too. I ses those places are too far from my work Ethel.

## ETHEL'S DREAM HOUSE

She ses Joe I think I will have two bed rooms so when we have a guest for all night they will have some place to sleep. I ses I can see you have been talking your dream house over with your Moms Ethel and she ses why yes Joe how did you know? I ses I just took a guess at it. I ses now I have to get a little sleep and you can set here and think about your dream house and she ses I am going to have everything in pale blue Joe.

Then I went on to bed and the next morning at breakfast she ses Joe I have been thinking ever since I got up what a cute little breakfast room I will have in my dream house so you will not have to set in the kitchen and eat your breakfast. I ses what is wrong with the kitchen if the bacon and eggs is all right? She ses yes but you will look so much nicer in my cute little breakfast room Joe. I have changed my mind about pale blue though.

I ses Ethel give me a kiss and then I went to work and when I got back that night she ses Joe I was downtown to-day and I saw some of the loveliest furniture you ever laid eyes on for my dream house. I ses Ethel you remind me of a friend of mine by the name of

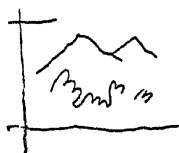
## MY WIFE ETHEL

Scabooch. She ses O I know him Joe. He is no good.

I ses well anyway Scabooch talked so much about a taxicab he was going to buy for himself that one day he went out and bought a chauffeurs cap. Ethel ses well what else happened? I ses thats all. She ses did he ever buy the taxicab? I ses no. Ethel ses why then he was crazy to buy the cap. I have decided that Mister Roosevelts dream house looks too flat Joe. It is only one story and I want two stories. I can even have another bed room then and I do not have to furnish it right away.

I ses that is well Ethel and she ses another thing Joe I have decided to have a little powder room down stairs and everything will be in rose instead of pale blue. Do you like rose Joe? I ses why I guess I do Ethel and she ses I have been thinking it over and it will not be too far to work for you from Bay Ridge if you get up earlier. I am going to have creton curtains on my windows but no pictures on the walls at all. They are too old fashioned. Do you like pictures Joe?

I ses Ethel I am just this way and that about pictures. She ses I wonder what I will do with



## MY WIFE ETHEL

that crayon of Moms in the living room. You remember she gave it to us for our wedding present and she might be hurt if I left it off the wall but it will spoil everything. I ses Ethel I am just this way and that about your Moms picture too but I can see what you mean when you say it will spoil everything. Ethel ses well I will have to think what to do about that.

That night she woke me up out of a sound sleep and she was crying and she ses O Joe I just happened to think of something. We cannot afford my dream house now any more than the man in the moon and I ses well Ethel baby some day I will buy you a whole town of dream houses and she ses thanks Joe and another thing I know now what you meant about Scabooch.

Yours truly

JOE TURP.

## 22. LAUGHTER AT THE MOVIES

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it, a lady  
hth<sup>at</sup>,,, October 21.

DEAR SIR the other night my wife Ethel ses to me Joe do you know what a terrible thing Mussolini has done to poor old Missus Angelo?

I ses do you mean old Missus Angelo whose husband Johnny runs the Italian grocery? Ethel ses yes that is the one I mean. She is one of the nicest old things in this neighborhood. I ses yes and old Johnny is all right too when he does not get full of that Red wine and tries to sing. I ses what do you mean Mussolini has done a terrible thing to her?

Ethel ses why he ses she cannot laugh any more at the Ritzes and the Marxes. I ses do you mean those fellows in the movies? Ethel ses yes they are the ones. I ses what has Mussolini got to do with old Missus Angelo laughing at them? I ses I bet Mussy never even heard of Missus Angelo or old Johnny either although John is always boosting him to me. I ses see

## MY WIFE ETHEL

here Ethel where did you get such an idea anyway?

She ses why it was in the papers that Mussolini made a rule that Italians cannot laugh at the Ri the Marxes or even at Charley Chaplin. Joe how would you like it if President Roosevelt made a rule that you could not laugh at somebody in the movies? I ses for instance who? I ses Ethel President Roosevelt would not have to make a rule to keep me from laughing at some of those guys.

She ses yes but what about the Ritzes and the Marxes? I ses well I tell you Ethel. I guess I would be plenty sore if President Roosevelt told me I could not laugh at the one in the middle of the Ritzes or at Groucho Marx and his moustache. She ses well suppose President Roosevelt made a rule that you could not laugh at W. C. Fields?

I ses Ethel then I would start a revolution. I ses nobody is going to keep me from laughing at W. C. Fields. I ses I am strictly a Fields man and Ethel ses well you can see now what Mussolini has done to old Missus Angelo.

I ses Ethel I still do not get the point and she ses why Joe the only pleasure old Missus

## LAUGHTER AT THE MOVIES

Angelo has in life is to go to the movies and laugh at the Ritzes and the Marxes. Joe she almost dies at them. You can hear her all over the house when the Ritzes put on funny clothes or Harpo chases a lady. Joe she goes ah ha ah ha ah ha like that when she laughs.

I ses never mind showing me how she laughs Ethel. I ses the neighbors may think I am choking you. I ses how does old Missus Angelo stand on W. C. Fields? Ethel ses well I do not know about that but she thinks the Ritzes and the Marxes are the funniest things in the whole world. I ses well Mussolini does not have to tell old Johnny not to laugh at anybody. I ses every time I see him in the movies he is sound asleep.

Ethel ses yes and his breath makes his moustache go up and down. I ses Ethel baby if your breath was as strong as old Johnny's when he had his load of garlic it would make your hat go up and down. I ses you try and set near him some time and Ethel ses well anyway Johnny does not have a sense of humor like Missus Angelo. Joe it is a pleasure to hear her laugh. Everybody in the theatre looks at her and laughs with her. She is awfully cute.



## MY WIFE ETHEL

I ses O is that so? I ses well you did not think it was so cute the night I laughed so hard at W. C. Fields that the manager come down to me and ses I would have to stop that noise or get out of there. Ethel ses well he thought you was clowning when you laughed that way. Another thing you called him a big chowder-head and that made people notice us. I was so ashamed.

I ses well he was a big chowderhead Ethel. I ses if you had not been with me I would have taken him outside and punched his nose for him and Ethel ses yes that is what he ses he would have done for you if I had not been with you. I ses when did he tell you that? Ethel ses O he has told me that a lot of times since. I ses where did you see him? She ses why Joe I see him every time I go to that theatre in the afternoons when it has a good picture and he is always standing around. I apologized to him for you long ago Joe.

I ses Ethel I will thank you to let me make my own apologies when I think they are necessary and she ses but Joe you never think they are necessary. I always have to make them for you. That manager accepted my apology

## LAUGHTER AT THE MOVIES

for you as nice as you please but he ses he never wants to see you around his theatre again. I ses well he need not worry because I am never going there again and Ethel ses I think that is the best idea Joe. He looks awfully strong.

I ses well he did not make me stop laughing did he? I ses nobody is going to make me stop laughing when I feel like it not even President Roosevelt. I ses the only way they could make me stop laughing would be to tell me to laugh. Ethel ses what at Joe? I ses what at what? She ses what would they tell you to laugh at to make you stop laughing? I ses Ethel lets drop this and I went to bed but I was not asleep before she came in and ses Joe I just finished reading about that order that Mussolini made and it does not go for Italians in this country but only in Italy.

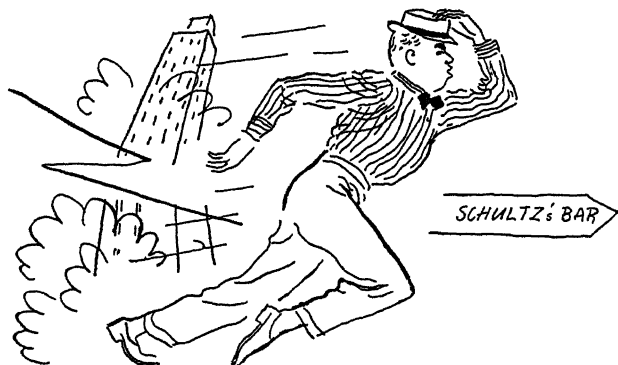
I ses thats fine. I ses Missus Angelo is all right then is she? Ethel ses yes and I am going to take her to see that new Marxes picture to-morrow night so she can laugh all she wants. I ses I would like to see that picture myself Ethel and I will go with you. I ses where is it playing? Ethel ses I guess you better not

## MY WIFE ETHEL

go Joe. It is playing at that theatre where the manager ses he never wants to see you again.

Yours truly  
JOE TURP.

## 23. THE END OF THE WORLD



*Brooklyn, November 4.*

**D**ES SIR the other night my wife Ethel ses Joe people are certainly awfully crazy. I ses what people? She ses nearly all people.

I ses well now whats up? She ses why the paper ses that people listening to a radio broadcast last night run right out of their houses thinking the world was coming to an end. The broadcast was about some fellows coming down from Mars and landing in New Jersey and killing people right and left.

## MY WIFE ETHEL

I ses yes I read all about that Ethel. I ses I wish I could have heard it myself and maybe I would have if you had not been so anxious to see that movie. I ses everybody I meet ses they wish they could have heard that broadcast but they was all doing something else when it came off. I ses from what the paper ses it must have been very exciting.

Ethel ses well anyway Joe dont you think those people were crazy for running out of their houses that way? I ses well Ethel if somebody thinks the world is coming to an end I guess they just have to run somewheres. I ses if you thought the world was coming to an end what would you do?

Ethel ses I would not do anything. I would just set right here in my house and look out of the window and watch it. If the world was coming to an end I would want to be where I was comfortable when it happened and not be running around out in the street where something might fall on me and hurt me. Joe what would you do if you thought the world was coming to an end?

I ses Ethel I guess I would run somewheres too. She ses where? I ses well I have never

## THE END OF THE WORLD

thought of where and she ses I bet you would run down to Schultz Bar. I ses well Ethel that is as good a place as any and she ses would you be scared Joe? I ses yes Ethel I guess I would be scared all right. I ses I guess I would be scared stiff and she ses then it is a good thing you did not hear that broadcast.

I ses hay Ethel I guess it was a good thing you did not hear it yourself or it would have made you terribly nervous and she ses O pooh Joe I would not have believed a word of it. I have been hearing about the world coming to an end ever since I was a little girl and it never has yet.

I ses where did you hear such a thing as that? She ses why my Pops always ses he guesses this is the end of the world. I ses what does he guess is the end of the world? She ses O anything that happens Joe like when Tammany gets beat in the election. Do you know what my Pops ses Joe? I ses well he ses so many things I cannot keep track of them all. She ses why he ses that it would be a good thing for everybody if the world did come to an end.

I ses Ethel sometimes your Pops makes me tired and she ses thats exactly what my Moms

## MY WIFE ETHEL

ses Joe. I ses what did your Pops think about that radio broadcast? I ses was he scared? Ethel ses he did not hear the broadcast himself and when somebody told him about it he was not scared a bit. My Pops ses he knew it must be a false alarm because if the world was coming to an end it would not start in New Jersey. He ses it would start in the Bronx.

I ses why is that? Ethel ses I dont know why it is but that is what he ses. My Moms ses she thinks it is because a fellow who once skinned him in a business deal lives in the Bronx and that my Pops just hopes the world will start coming to an end there so he can see something happen to the fellow. Joe do you know what my Moms ses about the world coming to an end?

I ses my goodness Ethel do they always talk about things like the world coming to an end at your house? She ses why no Joe except when it comes up in the conversation like that radio broadcast. They talk about everything that is happening at my house. Joe you ought to go there oftener and hear what they talk about. It is very interesting.

I ses every time I go there your Uncle Dan is

## THE END OF THE WORLD

around and all he ever talks about is needing two bucks. I ses is that interesting? Ethel ses well Joe it is interesting to Uncle Dan but do you want to hear what my Moms ses? I ses well I guess I will have to hear it whether I want to or not and Ethel ses my Moms ses nobody need be afraid of the world coming to an end now.

I ses why is that? Ethel ses my Moms ses if the world was ever coming to an end it would have come to an end long before this. My Moms ses that if the world did not come to an end after all the wickedness and meanness she has seen in her life there is no reason for it to come to an end now when it is getting better. I ses what is getting better? Ethel ses why the world. That is what my Moms ses Joe. She ses the world is getting better.

I ses what does your Pops think about that Ethel? She ses O Joe he never ses what he thinks about anything my Moms ses.

Yours truly

JOE TURP.



## 24. SPORTS ARE HYPOCRITES

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*Brooklyn, November 11.*

DEAR SIR the day after election my wife Ethel ses Joe the paper ses Mister Dewey sent a telegram of congratulations to Governor Lehman on getting elected again. I ses thats right what of it?

Ethel ses well Governor Lehman beat Mister Dewey in the election didnt he? I ses I hope to tell you he did. I ses why Ethel you was listening to the radio and you heard it the same as me. I ses whats the idea of asking me a question like that?

She ses Mister Dewey wanted that job of Governor pretty bad himself didnt he? I ses I don't know how bad he wanted it Ethel and she ses he wanted it bad enough to work with might and main making speeches and everything else didnt he? He went all over the state shaking hands with everybody and talking to them didnt he? Why Joe you know he did because it was in the papers.

## SPORTS ARE HYPOCRITES

I ses now wait a minute Ethel. I ses you tell me what you are getting at without first trying to wedge me into a corner and she ses well Joe when you send congratulations to somebody it is because you are glad about something nice that has happened to them. Isnt it like having babies or birthdays or getting married?

I ses maybe and Ethel ses was Mister Dewey glad that Governor Lehman beat him in the election? I ses well I dont suppose he was tickled Ethel and she ses then why did Mister Dewey send congratulations to him? I ses Ethel a loser in anything generally sends the winner congratulations and she ses why? Does the winner ever send the loser congratulations Joe?

I ses look Ethel you have been to prize fights with me lots of times and you have seen fellows that got licked shake hands with the fellows who licked them. I ses that is the same as sending congratulations only they do not have to do it with telegrams. She ses yes Joe but I never thought they was on the level.

I ses do you mean the prize fights Ethel? She ses O no Joe I mean the fellows that got

## MY WIFE ETHEL

licked who shake hands with the fellows who licked them. I watched a fellow who got licked one night shaking hands with the fellow who licked him and he had a mean look. I dont think he was sincere in shaking hands with the fellow who licked him.

I ses well Ethel maybe he was a poor sport. I ses a fellow who gets licked and is not willing to congratulate the fellow who licked him is a poor sport. Ethel ses well I saw another fellow who got licked at the Ridgewood Grove one night try to kick the fellow who licked him in the shins instead of shaking hands with him and I liked that fellow Joe, though the crowd booed him something awful.

I ses I remember that Ethel and I booed him myself and he deserved it. I ses I am surprised to hear you say you liked a poor sport like that Ethel. She ses he was no poor sport Joe. He was just not a hypocrite. I will bet you anything in this world Joe that every fellow that gets licked feels more like kicking the fellow that licked him in the shins instead of shaking hands with him even in politics.

I ses Ethel that is the wrong spirit and she ses maybe it is Joe but if I was in politics and

## SPORTS ARE HYPOCRITES

somebody beat me in an election I would not feel like sending them congratulations especially somebody that had been going around saying mean things about me like fellows do in politics on the radio. I would send them a box of thumb tacks. I ses what on earth would you send them thumb tacks for? She ses for them to go sit on thats what for.

I ses now you see Ethel that is just why most women should not be in politics. I ses they are just like you. I ses they are liable to be poor sports if they get licked and she ses well anyway they are not liable to be hypocrites and send congratulations to somebody they would like to kick in the shins. By the way Joe what did you put in your telegram to Sammy Wooluf?

I ses what telegram to Sammy Wooluf? I ses what would I be sending a telegram to that bum about? I ses why Ethel you know I do not even speak to Sammy Wooluf any more and she ses do you mean to tell me you never sent him a telegram of congratulations the time he licked you? I know you did not shake hands with him Joe because you could not get up in time but I thought you must

## MY WIFE ETHEL

have sent him a telegram anyway. You are not a poor sport are you Joe?

I ses listen here Ethel you know Sammy Wooluf copped a sneak on me and flattened me when I was not looking. I ses what would I have done to that bum if he had not run off before I could get going? She ses what would you have done Joe? I ses I would have murdered him and you know it. I ses let me tell you something while I am on the subject. I ses Ethel I never liked the way you stood there laughing that night either.

Ethel ses Joe I was not laughing at you. I was laughing at the way Sammy was running. Would you feel like kicking Sammy in the shins or shaking hands with him Joe? I ses you know very well what I would feel like doing Ethel and she ses yes thats why I love you Joe. You are no hypocrite.

Yours truly

JOE TURP.

## 25. CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE NIGHT

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*Brooklyn, November 14.*

**D**EAR SIR the other night when I got home from work Mildred Swanson was there and I ses hello Mildred hows Hunk? She ses I dont know how he is and I dont care. I ses well I was just asking. I ses how are you then? She ses I am miserable and my wife Ethel comes in and ses O Joe heres Mildred.

I ses yes I see her and Ethel ses she had left Hunk for good and all. I ses what again? Ethel ses yes but this time it is for good and all. I ses its always for good and all every time.



## MY WIFE ETHEL

Ethel ses yes but this time its really for good and all and Mildred ses thats right Joe its really for good and all.

I ses now what is the trouble? Mildred ses O there is no trouble except Hunk would rather throw his money away on the horses than provide for me and I stood all I could and then just got up and left him. I ses for good and all hay? She ses thats right for good and all. I ses well Mildred I am sorry to hear. I ses I would hate to have my little old Doll Baby here leave me. I ses Ethel sweets how about a big kiss and Ethel ses why sure Joe.

Mildred ses O Joe you need not worry about Ethel ever leaving you because nobody in this world is as good natured as you or a better provider. I ses well Mildred old Hunk is not such a bad guy and she ses O he can be awfully sour when he wants to. I never saw you sour Joe.

I ses Mildred that is because I am so happy with Ethel here. I ses what in the world would I have to be sour about? I ses Ethel give us another kiss and then lets all put on the feed bag. I ses I am hungry enough to eat a horse hair and all. I ses Ethel just lead me to that

## CORNEB BEEF AND CABBAGE NIGHT

old corneb beef and cabbage and Mildreb you come along with me and stop worrying about Hunk for awhile. I ses Hunk is all right but I guess he can be tough to get along with now and then.

Ethel ses O Joe I am so sorry there is no corneb beef and cabbage to-night. I ses why not? I ses it seems to me this is corneb beef and cabbage night unless I have got my dates mixed. Ethel ses thats right Joe. It is corneb beef and cabbage night all right but Mildreb came in just before I started to get dinner and she had to tell me about her trouble with Hunk and I was so interested I forgot everything else.

I ses now wait a minute Ethel. I ses let me get this straight. I ses you mean you forgot to get me up my corneb beef and cabbage on corneb beef and cabbage night? She ses thats right Joe. I ses you mean there is now no corneb beef and cabbage ready for me or boiled potatoes with the jackets on either? She ses well Joe I can open a can of beans or something or maybe we can go out and take Mildreb with us.

I ses look Ethel on corneb beef and cabbage



## MY WIFE ETHEL

nights I start thinking about it at noon. I ses I hardly think about anything else the rest of the day. I ses I always think that is one way your Moms did me a favur showing you how to cook corned beef and cabbage but here I come home as happy as a clam and what do I find? I ses I find Mildred Swanson and no corned beef and cabbage.

Ethel ses why Joe there is no sense taking on that way about a little thing like no corned beef and cabbage. I ses you call that a little thing do you? I ses that is a big enough thing to make a fellow leave home and Mildred started to laugh and ses thats funny. I ses whats funny? Mildred ses why thats what Hunk ses. I guess fellows are all alike. I was setting home last night thinking of a fur coat I can get for eighty-six dollars and I forgot to make the dinner and Hunk got mad when he came home and that started our trouble and caused me to leave.

I ses I thought you ses it was because he would not provide for you and Mildred ses thats right. He would not provide the fur coat. I ses look here Mildred you got plenty of nerve coming around my house with your troubles

## CORNERED BEEF AND CABBAGE NIGHT

and taking up my wifes time and making her forget to get my cornered beef and cabbage. I ses you have spoiled the whole day for me and it is a good thing for you that you are not a fellow.

Ethel ses see here Joe Turp you cannot talk to my girl friend that way. I ses Ethel I would talk to anybody that way when they make me miss my cornered beef and cabbage and Ethel ses Mildred you wait a minute until I get my hat and coat and we will go over to my Moms. I ses well you can go for all of me and just then the phone rang and it was for Mildred and pretty soon she came back smiling all over and ses it was Hunk and everything is all right. He had a winner to-day and is going to provide me with that fur coat. Well Joe and Ethel I will be seeing you.

I ses not if I see you first and Ethel began crying and ses I am going to my Moms by myself just the same and she started for the door and then she stopped and ses O Joe you know my Moms has cornered beef and cabbage to-night too if you hurry. I ses I am practically running now Ethel and on the way to her Moms she ses Joe do you know what? I ses

## MY WIFE ETHEL

no what? She ses I hate Mildred Swanson and  
I ses Ethel you can put Hunk in too.

Yours truly

JOE TURP.

## 26.    ETHEL    AND    THE          BLONDE THING



*Brooklyn, November 25.*

DEAR SIR the other night after we had a big thanksgiving dinner I took my wife Ethel to the movies and a young fellow and a blonde went in the same time we did and took some seats on an aisle and we had to crawl past them to get to some empty seats on the other side of them and Ethel stepped on the blondes toe getting past and the blonde ses why dont you look where you are going you clumsy thing?

Ethel ses I beg your pardon but if your feet were not so big somebody could get past them without stepping on them and the blonde ses my feet are not as big as your mouth and Ethel ses O is that so? The blonde ses yes that is certainly so and the young fellow ses why dont you girls both pipe down and just forget it?

Ethel ses Joe did you hear what that fellow ses to me? I ses yes I heard it and she ses are you going to stand for something like that?

## MY WIFE ETHEL

I ses O I guess he did not mean anything Ethel. I ses he looks like a nice fellow and she ses I bet he is not a nice fellow or he would not be out with that blonde thing. I bet he is a gangster and I am ashamed of you for letting him insult me Joe Turp.

I ses well Ethel lets look at the picture awhile and maybe you will get over your sizzle and she ses I only wish I was a man and somebody told me to shut up especially if they was with a blonde thing like that who talked about the size of my mouth. I ses well you talked about the size of her feet Ethel and then people around us commenced going shush shush so we set there and nobody ses anything more.

When the picture was over the young fellow and the blonde started out the same time we did and Ethel and the blonde gave each other some mean looks going up the aisle. Then when we got outside the theatre Ethel ses well Joe I think the least thing you can do is to make that fellow apologize for telling me to shut up and the blonde heard her and ses yes and I have been telling my husband he ought to make you people apologize for insulting me in the theatre about my feet.

## ETHEL AND THE BLONDE THING

I ses wait a minute lady. I ses what do you mean you people? I ses you only had an argument with my wife here and the blonde ses is that your wife? I ses yes she is and the blonde ses hum. Ethel ses what is that hum for? The young fellow ses why dont you hire a hall? I ses see here Mack are you looking for trouble? He ses well I am not running from any and I ses suppose you and me step around into this parking lot here and see what happens.

He ses with pleasure so we went into the parking lot next door to the theatre and around in back of some cars leaving my Ethel and his wife in front of the theatre and when we got out of sight of them the young fellow ses now look Mack what is the sense of you and me fighting each other just because a couple of dames have an argument about nothing? I ses maybe you are right Mack. I ses to tell you the truth I do not feel so good because I ate too much thanksgiving dinner.

He ses thats funny Mack. I do not feel so good myself and beside I have on a new suit of clothes. What about you and me slipping over to that bar there and having a couple of beers? I ses all right Mack but dont let them



## ETHEL AND THE BLONDE THING

see us go because they think we are back here murdering each other.

So we went over to the bar and had the beers and he turned out to be a right nice young fellow by the name of McCormick and he knew a couple of fellows I used to run with over around Clinton Street and he ses he had been married two years to the blonde and her name was Carrie and that she was all right but very touchy about the thing Ethel had accidentally happened to speak of which was the size of her feet.

Finally we went back through the parking lot to where we had left Ethel and his wife and they was standing there far apart waiting and McCormick and me was both looking fierce and trying to act like we had been in a terrible fight and one thing helped us we was breathing hard from having to hurry in downing our beers.

I ses come on Ethel I guess that guy will not insult anybody again soon and when we was on the way home she ses did you give him a good beating Joe? I ses I half killed him. She ses he did not look like he was half killed and I ses well Ethel he may not have looked it but



## MY WIFE ETHEL

you can bet he felt it and she ses thanks Joe for taking my part like a man. Did you knock him down? I ses I knocked him down four times and she ses that was swell Joe.

When we got home and put on the lights in the living room she ses turn around Joe I want to see your back.

So I turned around and she ses thats funny. I ses whats funny? She ses thats the first time you was ever in a fight that you did not get the back of your clothes dirty. I ses look Ethel I know what you mean by that crack. I ses you mean I am always getting flattened. I ses well you should see that other guys back to-night.

She ses I did Joe. I saw it when he turned to go with that blonde thing. I ses you did?



## ETHEL AND THÉ BLONDE THING

She ses yes I did. I ses well good night Ethel.  
She ses good night Joe.

Yours truly

JOE TURP.

## 27. ARRIVING PLACES

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*Brooklyn, December 8.*

DEAR SIR the other night when I got home I ses to my wife Ethel hay Ethel what do you think? I ses the boss told me today he may have to send me on a trip around the country to see the customers and if he does I can take you with me. I ses Johnny Walker the regular traveling fellow has got lumbago.

Ethel ses why Joe that is the strangest thing. I ses there is nothing strange about it. I ses Johnny has been getting lumbago now and then ever since I can remember. I ses he generally gets it at this time of year and it cripples him all up. Ethel ses O I do not mean that Johnnys lumbago is the strangest thing.

I ses all right then what is the strangest thing? Ethel ses it is the strangest thing that I was just setting here thinking when you came in of how I would pose if I went traveling when I arrived places. I ses what places? She ses why any places that you arrive at when you are traveling.

I ses Ethel what in the world are you talking

## ARRIVING PLACES

about? She ses why Joe dont you ever look at the pictures in the papers of important people like movie stars when they go traveling and arrive places? I ses I may have seen them but I dont remember them and Ethel ses why they are always in the papers. They are always waving at somebody when they arrive places and that is the only thing that bothers me.

I ses look Ethel you are getting me all confused. I ses I wish you would explain what you mean and she ses why Joe supposing a movie star like Carole Lombard or somebody goes traveling. I ses all right I am supposing that. Ethel ses well when she arrives some place the photographers are always at the train to take her picture for the papers and they always take it when she is standing on the car steps. That is when she waves at somebody.

I ses who does she wave to? Ethel ses why it must be to somebody she knows and that is what bothers me. I could not wave because I would not know anybody to wave at in all the places I arrived if I went traveling. I could wave to my Moms and my Pops and my Uncle Dan if I arrived in Brooklyn but who do I know somewhere else to wave at?

## MY WIFE ETHEL

I ses why sweets you could wave at me. I ses I would be standing back there somewheres so you could see me and I would wave at you too and Ethel ses yes but you would be with me when I arrived and it would be silly for me to wave at my own husband when he was with me. I ses well you could wave at the photographers and she ses yes but I do not know any photographers. I ses I hear they are not hard to meet and Ethel ses Joe I am serious. They generally have an armful of flowers too when they are getting off the train.

I ses do you mean the photographers? Ethel ses no Carole Lombard or whoever is traveling and arriving places. I ses well the flowers are a cinch. I ses I can always get you flowers anywhere and Ethel ses O I have decided that I would not want flowers. I think holding a dog in my arms would be cuter. Its name would be Chubby and they would put that in the paper with my picture. Dont you think that would be cute Joe?

I ses why Ethel we have not got a dog named Chubby and Ethel ses I know it but I was just thinking that it would be nice if I had one by that name to pose with when I



## MY WIFE ETHEL

went traveling and arrived places. I wish we could be on a ship Joe because then I could pose setting up on something showing a little of my legs.

I ses see here Ethel what kind of talk is that about showing a little of your legs? I ses that sounds immodest to me and Ethel ses why Joe you dont know anything that is going on do you? Everybody that is important if they are a lady sets up on something when they are traveling on a ship and arriving places and shows a little of their legs if they have got good legs. I have got good legs Joe and you know it.

I ses well what if you did not have good legs what would you do if you were on a ship arriving places? Ethel ses why then I would just stand at the rail and wave at the statue of Liberty or keep on a long fur coat.

I ses well Ethel I guess you do not have to worry about how you will pose if you go with me on that trip. I ses in the first place it is no cinch Johnny Walker does not get over his lumbago and in the second place if we go we will go in the old can and not on a train or a ship. I ses that is the way Johnny Walker travels and that is the way we will travel if we

## ARRIVING PLACES

go and Ethel ses O Joe you know I love to travel in the car.

I ses I dont think there will be any photographers looking to take pictures of your arriving places either Ethel because we are only little people and she ses O pooh who cares about pictures Joe? I have only one thing to worry me now. I ses what is that? She ses I have to worry if it is wrong to hope Johnny Walker keeps on having lumbago but not too painful.

Yours truly

JOE TURP.



## 28. THE SUNNY SOUTH

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*Miami, Florida, December 16.*

DEAR SIR that lumbago that Johnny Walker the traveling fellow had did not get better so my boss ses Joe you better go down to Miami and see those customers of Johnnys and be easy on the expenses and when I told my wife Ethel she ses Joe honestly I did not hold a thought that Johnnys lumbago would not get better but I have bought the cutest bathing suit you ever saw in your life.

So I got out the old can and when we was only over in New Jersey Ethel ses Joe you tell me when we are in the sunny south. I ses well after we leave Washington we will be there so when we left Washington and had gone quite a ways she ses are we in the sunny south now?

I ses yes I guess we are and when I stopped at a gas station I heard her tell the gas fellow good moanin and I ses Ethel what is the idea of talking that way to people? She ses why Joe

## THE SUNNY SOUTH

that is my southern accent like Bette Davis in those southern pictures.

I ses look Ethel dont be talking that way or these guys down here will think you are trying to kid somebody. She ses why Joe they will think I belong in the sunny south the same as them. I ses yes they will in a pigs eye with a New York license plate on our car. I ses suppose you was running a gas station in Brooklyn and somebody from down here with a southern license on their car asked you for some erl?

Ethel ses well what if they did? I would just go and get them some erl. What is wrong about that Joe? I ses why Ethel they would only be trying to kid you about the way Brooklyn people talk because down south they call erl oil and in Brooklyn oil is a fellows name. I ses you spell that oil E-A-R-L.

Ethel ses O pooh Joe I know that but it is only the way some of the people in Brooklyn talk. You know very well I do not talk that way except when I forget and neither do you much. When my Moms ses erl I know she means oil and when my Pops ses oil I know he means Earl Clanahan the fellow who is a bar-

## MY WIFE ETHEL

tender at Schultzes. My Moms and my Pops got in the habit of talking that way a long time ago and never stopped.

I ses well then that is the way it is down south. I ses everybody does not talk like you did to that gas station fellow. She ses all right Joe I was only trying to be friendly in the sunny south. Joe if this is the sunny south where are the darky persons picking cotton and twanging on their banjos and singing sad songs? I ses well Ethel maybe there is no cotton for them to pick and maybe they are not sad and do not feel like twanging on their banjos and singing sad songs.

She ses why Joe that is silly. In the movies all darky persons are always twanging on their banjos and singing sad songs especially when old massa dies. I ses Ethel you will have to stop figuring the sunny south is like the movies. I ses that was a long time ago and everything is different now and she ses well I guess it is but I hope Paulette Goddard gets to play Scarlett O'Hara. She looks beautiful and cold and mean enough.

I ses who does? Ethel ses Paulette Goddard does. She would make a wonderful Scarlett

## THE SUNNY SOUTH

O'Hara. I ses what has Paulette Goddard or Scarlett O'Hara got to do with this trip? Ethel ses O that is going to be a picture about the sunny south the way it is in the movies. Joe I see some darky persons over there by that house but they are not doing anything but setting still.



I ses well maybe it is too warm for them to move a-round and she ses Joe are you real sure you did not take the wrong road? Are you sure we are in the sunny south?

I ses Ethel you can go and bet on it. She ses well I am certainly disappointed in those darky persons. They do not even have banjos. Joe you would think they would have darky persons with banjos everywhere in the sunny south so people like me from Brooklyn would not be disappointed. I ses Ethel I will speak to the Chamber of Commerce about it.

## MY WIFE ETHEL

We was four days getting down here and we stopped in trailer camps at night and Ethel got acquainted with everybody in those camps and she ses Joe I am having a fine time in the sunny south. Do you know what Joe? I ses no what? She ses why I have been speaking my Bette Davis southern accent to them like I did to that gas station fellow and they think I am really from the sunny south myself. Isnt that wonderful Joe? They do not think I am trying to kid somebody like you ses they would.

I ses I do not see what is the idea of putting yourself away as a southerner. I ses are you ashamed of Brooklyn? She ses of course not Joe but the sunny south sounds more romantic to be from and attracts more attention. A good looking fellow in that camp we stopped in last night asked me what part of the south I was from and I told him Massachusetts. It was the first place I could think of and he laughed and talked to me a lot Joe. If I had told him Brooklyn he would not have noticed me. He was from Louisiana himself.

I ses well all right Ethel but here we are away down in Florida and Ethel ses O Joe look

## THE SUNNY SOUTH

at the beautiful yellow light bulbs on those trees. I wish we could stay and see them turn them on. I ses Ethel those are not light bulbs. I ses those are oranges growing on those trees.

Yours truly  
JOE TURP.

## 29. ETHEL'S BATHING SUIT

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*Miami.*

DEAR SIR yesterday was a nice warm Sunday so I took my wife Ethel to the beach for a little swim and when she come out of the ladies dressing room I ses my goodness Ethel you better go back and put something on before you get arrested. I ses if you go to jail down here I would have a hard time getting you out because I dont know anybody in this part of the country.

She ses why Joe what are you talking about? I have got something on. This is my new bathing suit that I was telling you about and it is the cutest thing in the world. I ses well if that is a bathing suit I wish you would hurry up and hide yourself in the water before somebody else sees you and she ses why Joe I want somebody else to see me. That is what this bathing suit is for. If you think I am going to ruin it by going in the water you are crazy.

I ses well all right but I am going to walk up the beach and pretend I am not with you so I went off a little ways and set down close to the

## ETHEL'S BATHING SUIT

water and Ethel followed me and ses why Joe dont be mad. This bathing suit is really very smart and I was about to say something back to her when I felt something burning me underneath.

So I got up in a hurry and was hopping around on one leg and rubbing myself and Ethel ses Joe what on earth is the matter? Have you gone crazy? I ses somebody threw a cigar butt that was still lit down on this beach and I sat on it and burned myself. Ethel ses where? I ses where I am rubbing myself thats where and she ses well that is a fine thing to happen on a beach where you pay your good money to go in bathing.

Then a fellow in a bathing suit that ses Guard on his shirt came along and Ethel ses do you have something to do with this beach?



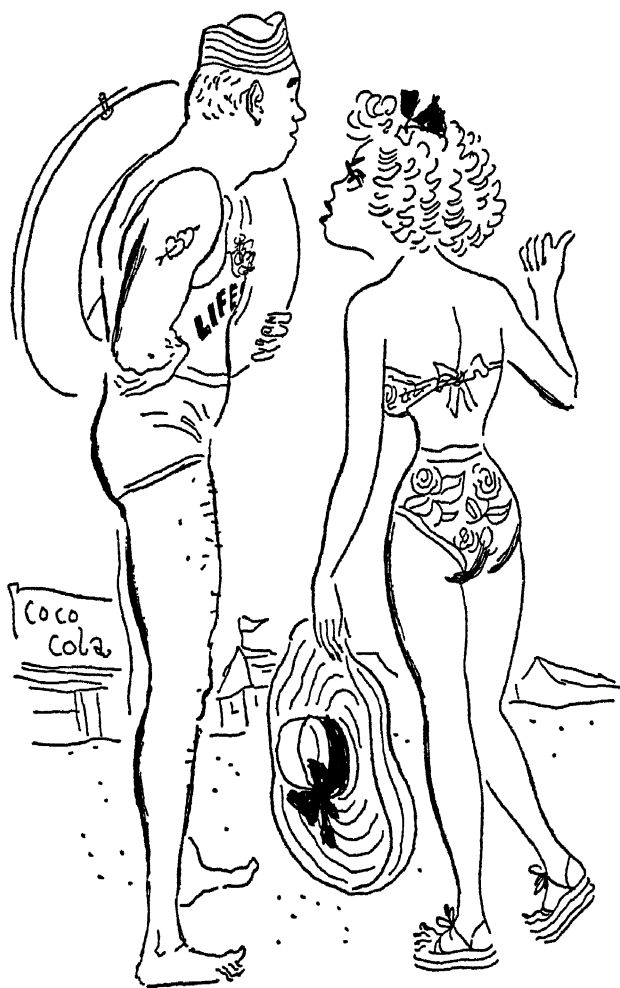


## MY WIFE ETHEL

The fellow ses yes lady I am one of the attendants here and Ethel ses well who is supposed to keep this beach clean? The fellow ses what do you mean lady? Ethel ses why I never saw such a dirty filthy place in my life with cigar butts thrown all around. A thing like that could not happen at Coney Island or Jones Beach where we came from.

The fellow ses why lady everything around here looks clean to me. I do not see any cigar butts. Ethel ses well you see that fellow there hopping around on one leg like he is crazy? The fellow ses is he? Ethel ses is he what? The fellow ses is he crazy? Ethel ses of course not. That is my husband Joe and he is seriously injured. He set down on the beach to rest and there was an old cigar butt where he set and it was still lit and he got badly burned.

The fellow ses lady a cigar butt could not have staid lit where he set down because the water keeps coming up over that place and it would have put the butts out. Ethel ses O I suppose you are going to tell me nothing happened to my husband. Look at the way he is hopping around on one leg and rubbing himself. He is in terrible pain. I ses yes you big



## MY WIFE ETHEL

blubberhead I guess nothing happened to me.

The fellow ses O I am a blubberhead am I? Ethel ses look mister never mind what you are but please do something to help my husband. Maybe the cigar butt is still inside his pants somewhere and going on burning him. The fellow ses lady if you look at his pants you will see that they are not burned on the outside so there is no cigar butts burning inside his pants and never was. I know what happened to him.

Ethel ses you do? He ses yes I do. He just set down on a Portuguese man of war. Ethel ses what is that? The fellow ses it is a little thing that lives in the ocean and sometimes gets up on the beach and when somebody sets down on it they get stung. It feels just like you had set down on a cigar butt that was still lit.

Ethel ses well of course you cannot blame the poor little things for stinging somebody that sets on them but what am I going to do about my husband Joe? He is suffering from the pain. Look at the way he is hopping and rubbing. The fellow ses well you just wait a minute and I will go and get some ammonia and that will fix him up swell.

## ETHEL'S BATHING SUIT

So he went and got a bottle of ammonia and rubbed where I hurt with it and pretty soon the pain was not so bad and I ses pal I am sorry I called you a blubberhead but I was feeling tough. He ses that is all right neighbor. I know how a man feels when he sets down on one of those things. They make him think somebody is prodding him with a red hot poker.

I ses how about you and me having a little drink and he ses neighbor you are now talking my language. So after I got my clothes on and Ethel was still dressing I took him to a bar and we had a couple of jolts and then the fellow ses neighbor I would have warned you not to set in that particular spot because there are always a lot of those man of wars around there at low tide but to tell you the truth I was so busy looking at your wifes bathing suit I forgot everything else.

This morning my wife Ethel ses Joe you are acting awfully unfriendly to me. Is it still because of my bathing suit? I ses Ethel you can bet it is.

Yours truly  
JOE TURP.

### 30. UNCLE DAN AND THE BABY ALLIGATORS



*Brooklyn, December 29.*

**D**EAR SIR my wife Ethel and me got back from Florida yesterday in the old bucket and she went over to her Moms house right away to show her sunburn before it wore off and when she come back she ses Joe there has been an awful lot of trouble around here.

I ses what was the trouble? She ses it was about my Uncle Dan. I ses you mean the fellow who won the World War? Ethel ses yes that is the one. I ses did somebody finally catch up

## UNCLE DAN AND BABY ALLIGATORS

with him for making those two dollar touches and have him put in jail? I ses if they did that it is no trouble. I ses that is a pleasure.

Ethel ses Joe he was in jail all right but it was not for what you think. Besides I don't think it is nice of you to talk disrespectfully of my Uncle Dan. You know he is my favorite uncle. I ses all right Ethel tell me what come off. I ses one good thing about it whatever it was we cannot be to blame this time and Ethel ses O yes we were Joe. It all started over those baby alligators.

I ses Ethel what baby alligators? She ses why the ones I sent from Florida. I ses look baby will you please tell me what you are talking about before I go crazy? I ses I never heard about any baby alligators you sent from Florida and she ses O thats right Joe. I guess I forgot to tell you but then you were always so busy down there running around seeing those customers that you never had time to listen to what I was doing.

I ses Ethel I listened to you about the fun you was having on the beach every day in that bathing suit that showed so much of you I was embarrassed. I ses I listened to a lot of

## MY WIFE ETHEL

other things you was doing that I dont remember now and I would surely have listened to something you was doing about baby alligators if you had told me. I ses I would have listened to that because I would have known the idea was no good.

Ethel ses there you go blaming me just like my Moms did until I told her I did not send the baby alligators. I told her you did Joe because she cannot be any madder at you over that than she always is. I ses Ethel sweets just you start at the beginning now and tell old Joe all about everything especially about your Uncle Dan getting in jail.

Ethel ses well Joe one day when you was seeing the customers and I did not go to the beach I went shopping and I found a store where they was selling the dearest little baby alligators you ever saw. They were really alive Joe and they cost fifty cents each and a man put them in a little box for you and mailed to whoever you said. I bought three of them and sent one to my Moms and one to my Pops and one to my Uncle Dan. They grow up to be very large Joe and then you make pocketbooks and suit cases of them. Are you listening Joe?

## UNCLE DAN AND BABY ALLIGATORS

I ses I should say I am listening. I ses I saw some of those baby alligators myself down there and I had a notion to send somebody one. I ses how could they cause all this trouble you are talking about? Ethel ses well Joe when the mail man delivered them at my Moms house Uncle Dan was the only one home and he was so tickled to get a really alive baby alligator that he took them all and put them in his pockets and went down to Schultz Bar to show them around.

I ses well now I can commence to see something and Ethel ses yes this is where it commences. There was a lot of fellows like truck drivers in Schultz and my Uncle Dan thought it would be a wonderfully funny joke to put the alive baby alligators in those fellows beers. Joe dont you think that was funny? I ses Ethel I can see where it was funny except to the fellows who was drinking the beers. Ethel ses yes that was the trouble. They was the ones who did not think it was funny and neither did that old Schultz.

I ses did Schultz know your Uncle Dan had those baby alligators? Ethel ses O no nobody knew he had them. They were in his pockets



## MY WIFE ETHEL

and he just slipped up alongside three different fellows and put a baby alligator in their beers when they was not looking. They was all truck drivers Joe every one of them. I ses yes Ethel it would not be like your Uncle Dan to pick a midget.

Ethel ses well of course those truck drivers found out about the baby alligators as soon as they started to drink their beers and my Moms ses when they began looking surprised that was when my Uncle Dan laughed until he almost cried. Joe one of those truck drivers almost drank his baby alligator right down along with his beer and he was the first one who hit Uncle Dan.

I ses who was the second one Ethel? She ses why both of the others was second Joe and Schultz was third. That old Schultz reached over the bar and hit my Uncle Dan on top of the head with a wooden mallet and there was a terrible fight all over the place and they sent for the police and put my Uncle Dan in jail. It cost my Pops twenty dollars to get him out. Joe I think those truck drivers and old Schultz had little to do hitting my Uncle Dan over a joke with baby alligators.

## UNCLE DAN AND BABY ALLIGATORS

I ses well why is your Moms blaming us and Ethel ses not us Joe. Just you. I had to tell her you sent them and she ses if you had minded your own business and left those baby alligators in Florida this would not have happened. My Pops is mad too Joe because all the baby alligators got lost somewhere during the fight and my Pops ses he has always wanted to see a baby alligator.

Yours truly  
JOE TURP.

### 31. UNCLE DAN AND THE SPIES



*Brooklyn, January 4.*

**D**EAR SIR last night my wife Ethel ses Joe my Uncle Dan was over to-day. I ses you mean the big war hero? She ses yes of course and I ses what is he up to now? She ses he is going to help the government out and look for spies.

## UNCLE DAN AND THE SPIES

I ses what spies? Ethel ses why any spies. They are people who go a peeking and a poking and a snooping around this country seeking information to send the enemy. That is what my Uncle Dan ses they do. I ses what enemy? Ethel ses well Uncle Dan did not tell me what enemy. He just ses the enemy. Uncle Dan ses the government is going to have thousands of agents out looking for spies.

I ses is your Uncle Dan a government agent? Ethel ses no but he is going to help out anyway because he is very patriotic. He is going to make those spies hard to catch. I ses did the government ask him to help out? She ses no he is just going to help out anyway. Uncle Dan ses he is a volunteer in a wonderful cause. He ses he never waits for anybody to ask him to help out in wonderful causes.

I ses what is there in it for him then? I ses Ethel it is not like your Uncle Dan to be doing something for nothing. I ses it is more like him to be doing nothing for something and Ethel ses O Joe you just dont care for my Uncle Dan. You are always talking mean about him even when he is being patriotic.

I ses did your Uncle Dan tell you how some-

## MY WIFE ETHEL

body goes about looking for spies? She ses sure he did. He ses you pick out somebody suspicious and follow them around and see if they go a peeking and a poking and a snooping and you listen to what they talk about and if they knock the government you sit down and write a letter to Washington and tell them that you have found a spy but you do not sign your right name to the letter because you do not want other spies to know who you are. Then somebody in Washington arrests the spy and puts him in jail and thats all there is to it Joe.

I ses well Ethel I cannot understand why your Uncle Dan wants to go looking for spies when he cannot make anything out of it and Ethel ses Joe my Uncle Dan ses you would be surprised how much trouble you can cause somebody who has done something to you like Jute Kroffy by writing to Washington and telling them he is a spy.

I ses Ethel do you mean Kroffy the tailor? She ses why of course, are there any other Kroffys around here? I ses well Kroffy never done anything to me and she ses no but he has done something to my Uncle Dan. He scorched a hole in my Uncle Dans best pants when he

## UNCLE DAN AND THE SPIES

was pressing them and would not pay for them because he ses the hole was already there.

I ses Ethel sweets I do not care what happens to your Uncle Dan but you tell him he better not go monkeying around that Kroffy too much. I ses that is a tough fellow and if he gets mad he is liable to hurt somebody. I ses he is liable to bust your Uncle Dans nose for him thats what he is liable to do and Ethel ses yes but suppose he is a spy?

I ses O Ethel thats silly. I ses Jute Kroffy is too busy playing the horses when he is not pressing peoples clothes to be a spy and Ethel ses why my Uncle Dan ses he is a republican and that is very suspicious for somebody to be a republican in Brooklyn. I ses well if Jute is a republican he has changed since the last election. I ses he was a democrat then and Ethel ses O my Uncle Dan knows that but he ses if you are going to write to Washington about somebody being a spy it is best to say they are a republican so the letter will get prompt attention.

I ses well Ethel if you want to do your Uncle Dan a favor you give him a tip from me to stay away from Jute Kroffy. I ses if he is a spy

## MY WIFE ETHEL

I am Mayor Laguardia and Ethel ses why Joe thats foolish. I ses whats foolish? She ses to think you could be Mayor Laguardia. He is a short fat fellow and you are tall and thin. I ses it is no more foolish than for your Uncle Dan to go around telling that Jute Kroffy is a spy and Ethel ses well Uncle Dan has to get even with him some way about those pants.

This morning when I was dressing I heard my wife Ethel talking on the telephone to her Moms and when she got through she came into the bedroom and ses Joe do you know something? I ses no what? She ses why you were right about Jute Kroffy busting my Uncle Dans nose. I bet he told you he would do it.

I ses Ethel I have not seen Jute in a month of Sundays but what happened? She ses why last night my Uncle Dan was listening at the key-hole of the back door of Kroffys shop to hear what Kroffy was talking about with a suspicious looking fellow who was in there with him and all of a sudden Kroffy opened the door and when he saw my Uncle Dan there he slammed it again right in my Uncle Dans face and





## MY WIFE ETHEL

busted his nose across the middle. My Moms ses I should have seen how it bled.

I ses well it served your Uncle Dan right and Ethel ses yes but that was not the worst of it Joe. The worst of it was Kroffy and the fellow were not spies at all. They are not even Republicans. They were setting there drinking out of a bottle and every once in awhile they stood up and gave three cheers for the government. My Moms ses my Uncle Dan is terrible disappointed Joe and he is going to let the government look out for its own spies without any help from him.

Yours truly

JOE TURP.

## 32. BETWEEN TWO GIRLS

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*Brooklyn, January 19.*

DEAR SIR the other night I took my wife to the movies and when we got home I ses now look here Ethel you are always asking me all kinds of questions so I am going to ask you a few. She ses all right Joe go ahead and I will be rolling my hair while I listen.

I ses suppose there was a picture that had Hedy Lamarr and Greta Garbo in it and they was both after the same fellow and he picked Greta Garbo instead of Hedy Lamarr would that be reasonable? I ses do you think those fellows who make the movies have got a right to try to make us believe a thing like that?

Ethel ses who do you mean by us? I ses well us fellows who pay to get in to see those pictures for one. Ethel ses O. I ses what does that O mean? I ses I ask you a question and all I get is O. Ethel ses I thought you never noticed anybody in the movies but I see you have noticed Hedy Lamarr. I ses well I guess everybody else has that is not blindfolded. I ses anyway you have not answered me.

## MY WIFE ETHEL

Ethel ses why Joe in the first place Hedy Lamarr and Greto Garbo would not be in the same picture and in the second place the fellow would have to pick Greta Garbo because she would be the star. She would be very much offended Joe if the fellow picked anybody else but her. Yes that is very reasonable. Besides Greta Garbo is very lovely Joe.

I ses I am not saying she is not lovely. I ses I forgot you are a hundred per cent Garbo so I will put my question another way. I ses suppose there was two girls in a picture who were both after the same fellow and one of the girls was Shirley Ross. Ethel ses O you have noticed Shirley Ross too have you. I ses well I have noticed her a little. Ethel ses I thought you always slept through most of the pictures we go to see? I ses well sometimes I am awake but I will be asleep in about four minutes if you do not let me finish what I started out to ask you.

Ethel ses all right Joe go ahead and I ses well where was I? Ethel ses you was at Shirley Ross. I ses O yes. I ses well suppose the fellow picked the other girl that was after him instead of Shirley Ross. I ses do you think that would

## BETWEEN TWO GIRLS

be reasonable? I ses do you think it is reasonable for those fellows who make the movies to try to make us believe a fellow would pick another girl when he could get Shirley Ross or Paulette Goddard?

Ethel ses where does Paulette Goddard come in? I ses well I just put her in. Ethel ses I never knew you had noticed her too. I ses I have also noticed Binnie Barnes. I ses do you think it is reasonable for those fellows to try to make us believe a fellow would pick another girl when he could get Binnie Barnes?

Ethel ses I see what you mean Joe. You mean when they have a girl in a picture who has to get the fellow they should not have another girl who is more attractive than she is being left in the cold. I ses Ethel that is the idea. I ses you have hit it right on the button. I ses it makes me good and sore to sit there and see them try to make me believe a fellow would be dumb enough to pass up that kind for some dame who is not one two three with them.

Ethel ses yes but Joe if she is the star she has to get the fellow. She would probably create a terrible scene if they did not let her have the fellow. I ses all right but I still do not

## MY WIFE ETHEL

think it is reasonable. I ses I would like to talk to one of those fellows that the two girls are always after like Tyrone Power and Clark Gable and ask them if they would not rather have Shirley Ross than the one that always gets them.

Ethel ses you must have been noticing Shirley Ross quite a lot Joe Turp. I ses well Paulette Goddard or Binnie Barnes then. I ses Tyrone Power and Clark Gable look to me like pretty smart fellows and I cannot figure how those fellows who make the movies expect us to believe they would be dumb enough to prefer some dame with bad legs and not much looks to Shirley Ross. I ses what do you say to that Ethel?

Ethel ses I say you are talking crazy. Tyrone Power and Clark Gable would not tell you even if you asked them and besides Clark Gable prefers Carole Lombard to anybody. I



## BETWEEN TWO GIRLS

ses I told you he looked like a smart fellow to me. I see well Ethel I think I will now retire and leave you to think over what I ses and I bet you will agree with me and she ses wait a minute Joe. If I was the other girl in the picture and you was the fellow we were after would you want Shirley Ross to get you instead of me?

I ses no Ethel nor Paulette Goddard or Binnie Barnes either because I am smart like Clark Gable. She ses and better looking Joe.

Yours truly

JOE TURP.

### 33. TWO FACE

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*Brooklyn, February 10.*

DEAR SIR the other night when my wife Ethel and I were coming home from the movies we passed Minnie Schultz in the street and I ses good evening Minnie and she ses good evening Ethel and Joe but Ethel did not speak back to her but walked on fast.

When I caught up with her I ses see here Ethel did you hear Minnie Schultz tell you good evening? Ethel ses sure I heard her Joe. I ses well then what was the idea of passing her and not speaking to her? Ethel ses Joe the idea is that I have got no use for Minnie Schultz. You know very well I have got no use for her Joe and so does everybody else in this neighborhood. She made remarks about the way I dress.

I ses yes and that reminds me that Anna Krump told me the other day that you did not speak to her when she passed you and Ethel ses thats right Joe. I ses why? Ethel ses because I have got no use for Anna Krump either. She made remarks about the way I

## TWO FACE

make up. I ses make up what? Ethel ses why make up my face when I am going out anywhere with you.

I ses why my goodness Ethel everybody makes remarks about somebody and that is no excuse for not speaking to them. I ses you grew up with those girls and they like you. She ses they like me do they? I ses yes they do and Ethel ses listen Joe if you like somebody you do not make remarks about them except nice remarks and I ses well they were harmless remarks. Ethel ses yes but they were not meant to do me any good.

I ses Ethel pretty soon if you do not watch out you will not be speaking to anybody in Brooklyn and Ethel ses well I do not care if I am not speaking to anybody if they are somebody who makes remarks about me. I am not two face like you are. I ses what do you mean two face like I am? Ethel ses why the other day I saw you talking to Johnny Wolf and I know you never had any use for him.

I ses why Ethel Johnny Wolf is a district captain. I ses he stands all right with Sweeney the leader and I always talk to him because he can do me plenty of good if he wants to.



## MY WIFE ETHEL

Ethel ses well that is what I meant when I ses you are two face. You came home right afterwards and criticized Johnny Wolf to me.

I ses all I ses about Johnny Wolf to you was that I thought he would take a hot stove if he got the chance and Ethel ses did you tell Johnny that is what you thought? I ses Ethel are you crazy? I ses certainly I did not tell Johnny that. I ses do you think I want him to go to Sweeney the leader and put in a big knock on me? Ethel ses well you are two face all right Joe.

I ses it is a fine thing for somebody to have to listen to their own wife call them names and Ethel ses I am not calling you names Joe. I am just saying you are two face. All fellows are two face Joe. They cannot help it. I saw you shaking hands the other day with Henny Hartzell and I know you never had any use for Henny since you were boys together. That is two face Joe.

I ses now wait a minute Ethel. I ses Henny is a pretty successful fellow and my boss would like to get some of his business so I have to be nice to him. Ethel ses have you got any use for him now? I ses of course I have not got

## TWO FACE

any use for him now. I ses I will never have any use for Henny Hartzell as long as I live. I ses he played me a dirty trick once and that is why I will never have any use for him. I ses hay Ethel I remember now you never had no use for Henny either.

Ethel ses thats right Joe. He tried to get fresh with me a long time ago when we were going to school. Did you tell him when you were shaking hands with him that you still have no use for him Joe? I ses please Ethel. I ses that is just foolishness to ask me if I told a fellow I had no use for him when I was trying to get his business. I ses he seemed favorable to me but you know very well he would have walked right off if I had told him that. I ses you would get nowhere in business being frank with people.

Ethel ses well that proves you are two face Joe. I ses O I suppose you would tell somebody you had no use for them if you were trying to get their business? Ethel ses well I told Henny Hartzell that but of course I was not trying to get anything from him. I ses yes but that was years ago when you were going to school. I ses he has forgotten that long ago.

## MY WIFE ETHEL

Ethel ses no Joe it was only a few days ago. I ran into Henny in the street and he wanted to stop and talk to me but I ses no Henny I have got no use for you even after all this time. He ses you were trying to get some business from him Joe and that ought to make me friends with him and I ses no Henny I still have no use for you. That is what I ses Joe.

I ses O my goodness Ethel that was a terrible thing to do. I ses now there is no chance of me getting Hennys business and she ses yes you will get it all right Joe. Henny ses he guessed he would give it to you just on my account because I was honest with him and not two face like you Joe.

Yours truly

JOE TURP.

## 34. THE DEB SINGS WUH WUH WUH



*Brooklyn, February 23.*

DEAR SIR last night I took my wife Ethel to a night club over in New York because it was Washingtons birthday and a holiday and a dame that the fellow who was announcing ses was a society deb came out in a loose dress and sang some songs and when we was ready to go and I asked the waiter for our check Ethel ses Joe do not pay that check until I see the owner of this place.

I ses whats wrong Ethel? She ses nothing is wrong but I just want to see the owner before you pay anything and I ses well cant you see him after I pay? She ses no I think I better see him first. Waiter you bring me the owner of this place right away and tell him that its important.

So the waiter went away and pretty soon he came back with a blond fellow with a nice smile and he ses pardon me but is there something wrong here? Ethel ses are you the owner

## MY WIFE ETHEL

of this place or just the manager? He ses lady I am the owner. I cant afford a manager the way things are just now. I ses are things tough in your line too? Ethel ses never mind business Joe. I want to talk to this gentleman a moment.

The owner ses lady I am at your disposal and Ethel ses my husband Joe and I came all the way over from Brooklyn to your place to-night. The owner ses why thats fine and I hope you enjoyed yourself and will come again. Ethel ses well we may if we get a rebate on this check here.

The owner picked up the check and looked at it and it was for four fifty which was for two beers for me and a sandwich for Ethel and he ses why lady what is your claim to a rebate on this check? Ethel ses it is for one of two things and one of them is that your loud speaker system is out of order.

The owner ses lady that is not possible because I just had it fixed to-day and you can hear for yourself the way that orchestra music is coming out of it that there is nothing wrong with the system. Ethel ses well then if the system is not out of order then those noises I



## MY WIFE ETHEL

heard a little while ago was that ladys natural voice.

The owner ses what lady? Ethel ses the lady the announcer ses was a society deb that just sang those songs and went eeee eeee eee all the time. I ses listen Ethel keep your own voice down a little will you? I ses you have got people looking at us and the manager ses wait a minute brother. Let them look. I want to hear what this lady ses. I ses that is my wife Ethel and he ses well all right but I still want to hear what she ses.

Ethel ses well I think we are entitled to a rebate on our check for those noises. I do not think it is fair to charge people full price when they have to listen to noises like that especially on Washingtons birthday. I would ask for a rebate in a store if I was not satisfied with the merchandise. I was very uncomfortable sitting here listening to the noises that lady made.

The owner ses waiter bring me a chair here. Lady I did not catch your name and Ethel ses my name is Ethel Turp and this is my husband Joe. He ses I am pleased to meet you both and especially you Missus Turp. Waiter bring a quart of our best champagne and three glasses

## THE DEB SINGS WUH WUH WUH

at once. I ses mister we cannot afford champagne and he ses Joe it is all on me and so is this check.

Then he scribbled something on the four fifty check that I was going to pay and gave it to the waiter and he ses Missus Turp I want to thank you for taking a terrible load off my mind. I have been setting around this place for two weeks listening to that dame and I thought I heard awful noises myself but my patrons applaud her and tell me she is fine. Missus Turp I ses to myself if she is fine then I am crazy and I am tickled to death to find somebody else that heard the same thing I did.

Ethel ses well Mister Owner why do you have that lady here making those noises? He ses Missus Turp it is because she is a society deb like the announcer ses and a lot of her friends come here on account of her name. Ethel ses well dont they mind those noises? He ses no they do not seem to notice them but maybe that is because they are half unconscious to start with. How is the champagne Missus Turp?

Ethel ses it is fine. It tickles my nose. He ses waiter bring another bottle of champagne and Ethel ses Joe will you ever forget that lady



## MY WIFE ETHEL

going eee eee eee? The owner ses Missus Turp you are wrong. She goes wuh wuh wuh wuh. Ethel ses no it is eee eee eee. I ses see here now the both of you. I ses everybody in the place is looking at us and the owner ses let them look. If they do not like us they know where they can go. Ethel ses yes let them look.

I ses Ethel you come on and lets go home and the owner ses yes and I will go with you because that society deb is coming out pretty soon to wuh wuh wuh again. Waiter tell the doorman to order my car. I am going to take my friends Mister and Missus Turp home. I am glad to find out I am not crazy.

Yours truly

JOE TURP.

## 35. BAD LANGUAGE



*Brooklyn, February 26.*

**D**EAR SIR when I got home from work the other evening I ses to my wife Ethel hurry and get yourself fixed up because we are going over to New York to see a play. I ses my boss gave me a couple of tickets that a friend of his gave him but he cannot go because he is not feeling well.

## MY WIFE ETHEL

Ethel ses O thats wonderful Joe. I have been dying to wear my new black dress. Is it a good play? I ses I dont know how good it is but as long as we are getting in on our sleeve what difference does it make if it is any good or not? Ethel ses well thats so Joe but it would not hurt if it was a good play.

I ses well my boss ses it got nice boosts in the papers from the dramatic critics. I ses they are the fellows who write up the plays and my boss ses they are very hard to please about a play and any time they give one a good boost it must be all right. I ses my boss ses in fact it must be a little better than all right. Ethel ses yes I sometimes read what those dramatic critics ses in the papers and they are very cross about plays.

So we went to see the play and when we were on the way home Ethel ses Joe tell me about dramatic critics. I ses tell you what about them? She ses what does one look like? I ses Ethel I never saw a dramatic critic to know him but I suppose they look like anybody else. I ses why do you ask? Ethel ses I was just wondering about them. It is funny how they like bad language.

## BAD LANGUAGE

I ses what do you mean they like bad language? Ethel ses well you ses your boss ses the dramatic critics gave that play nice boosts and if they gave it nice boosts they must have liked it and all there was in that play was bad language so those dramatic critics must like bad language. That is why I ses it is funny how they like bad language. I expect they use a lot of bad language themselves. I would not want to live in the same house with a dramatic critic Joe.

I ses now wait a minute Ethel sweets. I ses please now Ethel. I ses dont be starting one of those things with me. She ses why what things Joe? I ses one of those around and around arguments of yours. She ses why Joe I am not starting any arguments. I am just wondering about the way those dramatic critics like bad language. I wonder if they use it much in front of their wives Joe?

I ses Ethel just because those dramatic critics gave that play nice boosts it does not mean that they like bad language. I ses it does not mean that they use bad language themselves either. Ethel ses well all there was in that play was bad language. Joe why do they put bad language in a play?

## MY WIFE ETHEL

I ses Ethel you have got me there. I ses I suppose it is because a play is supposed to show you real life and so they put in the same kind of talk you hear in real life. Ethel ses where do I hear it in real life? I ses wherever your Uncle Dan is for one place. Ethel ses well I never hear my Uncle Dan for whenever he starts I just stick my fingers in my ears. I ses well why didn't you stick your fingers in your ears to-night?

Ethel ses why Joe then I could not have heard what those actors were talking about. Joe some of those actors looked like nice people and they must have been terribly embarrassed about that bad language. Do you suppose dramatic critics ever get embarrassed? I ses never mind about the dramatic critics for a minute. What did you want to hear what they were talking about when you knew they were using bad language?

Ethel ses why Joe I thought maybe they would talk about something else once in awhile that was not bad language and if I had stuck my fingers in my ears I could not have heard it. They never did though. I ses they never did what? Ethel ses they never stopped using bad

## BAD LANGUAGE

language. I was terribly glad we did not pay our way in to see that play Joe. If I wanted to hear bad language I would not pay my way in to a play to hear it. Do you know what I would do?

I ses sure I know. I ses you would call in your Uncle Dan and keep your fingers out of your ears. Ethel ses I would not. I would go down to the dock and listen to those sailor fellows. My Uncle Dan ses those sailors can give anybody cards and spades even him when it comes to using bad language. Joe I expect those dramatic critics would love those sailors if what Uncle Dan ses is so.

I ses if it is so it is the first thing he has said in a long time that is so. I ses what was you fidgeting so much for when we was at that play? I ses I thought you was going to jump out of your skin and Ethel ses well Joe to tell you the truth I had a notion to get up and walk out when they were using that bad language and then I remembered we were there on passes and it would not have been polite to your boss.

I was just getting to sleep when Ethel shook me and ses Joe I have just thought of some-

## MY WIFE ETHEL

thing. Your boss may have something against you. I ses where on earth did you get that idea Ethel? She ses because he gave you those passes to that play. Joe I still think its funny how those dramatic critics like bad language.

Yours truly

JOE TURP.

## 36. ETHEL WINS A DOLLAR



*Brooklyn, March 18.*

**D**EAR SIR the other night I had to work late so my wife Ethel went to the movies with a girl friend of hers and when I got home Ethel ses hay Joe what do you think? I won a dollar off a fellow in the movies.

I ses what kind of a fellow? Ethel ses he was an old fellow and he was very friendly. He sat right next to Myrtle and I only he was on my



## MY WIFE ETHEL

side and he was terribly nice and polite. Joe I had a notion not to take his dollar but I won it on a bet and you always ses yourself a bet is a bet.

I ses sure it is Ethel but how did you win that dollar? Ethel ses well Jimmy Cagney was in the picture and when it came time for him to fight the villain the old fellow next to us ses he was afraid the villain was too big for Jimmy Cagney and that Jimmy Cagney would get licked. So I bet him a dollar Jimmy Cagney would lick the villain and of course he did and that is how I won the dollar.

I ses now wait a minute Ethel. I ses lets you and me set down and be very quiet for awhile and then you tell me everything that happened and dont get excited. I ses do you mean to say you met a fellow who was willing to make you a bet that Jimmy Cagney would get licked in a fight in a picture? Ethel ses why Joe that is just what I got through telling you.

I ses do you think I am going to believe that anybody in their right mind would bet on such a thing unless he had an angle? I ses I guess that friendly old guy was just on the gather for one of you two dames and Ethel ses there you

## ETHEL WINS A DOLLAR

go Joe being suspicious of everybody. He was one of the nicest politest old fellows I ever saw Joe and you can ask Myrtle.

I ses never mind about Myrtle. I ses there is something funny about this story Ethel and she ses I did not know he had never been to the movies before Joe or I would not have bet him. But he did not tell me that until afterwards. I ses now wait a minute again Ethel. I ses are you going to set there and tell me you met a fellow who had never been to the movies before?

Ethel ses thats right Joe and you can ask Myrtle. He ses the reason was he always had an idea that the movies were no good and so he never went to them before. He went to-night because he was lonesome and had no other place to go. I felt awfully sorry for him Joe. Maybe his faithful old wife just died. You can see yourself Joe that he could never have been to the movies before or he would not have bet me that Jimmy Cagney would get licked by the villain.

I ses now Ethel you begin at the start and tell me what happened and she ses well Joe when Jimmy Cagney and the villain started to fight

## MY WIFE ETHEL

the old fellow turned to me and ses the little fellow will get licked sure. I ses no sir that little fellow is Jimmy Cagney and he will not get licked by any villain because then the picture would not suit anybody. He ses did you see this picture before miss? I ses no sir. He did not know I was married Joe.

I ses keep going Ethel and she ses well then he ses I was something of athlete when I was younger and I consider myself a pretty good judge of athletes now and I can see that other fellow is too big and strong for the little fellow. That is what he ses Joe. You can ask Myrtle.

I ses continue on Ethel and she says why I thought he was just joking Joe so I thought I would joke back and I ses I will bet you a dollar Jimmy Cagney licks that villain and he ses I will accept the bet miss. He still thought I was not married Joe. Of course Jimmy Cagney licked the villain and that is how I won the dollar. He paid when we was going out and that was when he told me it was the first movie he had ever been to. He was the nicest old fellow Joe. You can ask Myrtle.

I ses look Ethel. I ses I am surprised at you

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## MY WIFE ETHEL

taking advantage of somebody who is foolish enough to make a bet like that especially an old man. I ses I guess he was feeble minded and Ethel ses O no Joe he was not feeble minded. He had a lot of money when he paid me my dollar. You can ask Myrtle. I ses what has that got to do with him being feeble minded? Ethel ses O when somebody is feeble minded they do not have a lot of money. Sometimes that is why they are feeble minded.

I ses well it is just the same as swindling. I ses I am really ashamed of you Ethel and she ses but Joe I tell you I did not know until afterwards that he had never been to the movies before. I thought he was joking with me and what would you have done Joe? I ses why I would have at least given him some kind of odds like two to one. I ses maybe I would have given him three. I ses all you gave the poor old fellow was even money on a sure thing.

Ethel ses well I am sorry Joe and if I see him again I will give him his money back but you will have to lend it to me because Myrtle and I spent it on sandwiches. I ses I thought so and now I am going to bed and so I went but

## ETHEL WINS A DOLLAR

after a while Ethel woke me up and ses Joe I would have given that old fellow odds if it had been Clark Gable fighting the villain. I ses good night Ethel.

Yours truly

JOE TURP.

## 37. UNCLE DAN AND THE FAN DANCER



*Brooklyn, March 25.*

**D**EAR SIR the other night my wife Ethel ses Joe the Worlds Fair is all right now. I ses I did not know it was not all right Ethel and she ses O yes everybody was worried about it because they were afraid they were not going to have any fan dancers. Now they are going to have plenty of fan dancers and some without fans too so the Fair is all right.

I ses well Ethel I am glad of it. She ses do you mean you are glad they are going to have some without fans? I ses certainly not. I ses I mean I am glad that the Fair is all right. She ses so am I Joe. I was worrying myself sick about all the people who are coming to New York from all over the world to see the Worlds Fair and how disappointed they would be if they did not see any fan dancers. It would not be any fun for them.

I ses see here Ethel you have got the wrong idea about the Worlds Fair. I ses it is supposed to

## UNCLE DAN AND THE FAN DANCER

be educational to people and to show them what is going on everywhere in the way of progress and Ethel ses O I know that Joe. I read the papers too but my Uncle Dan ses it would be un-American if they did not have fan dancers at the Fair. He ses the people who come here from foreign countries to see the Fair would go home knocking us if there were no fan dancers there.

I ses what does your Uncle Dan know about worlds fairs or fan dancers either Ethel? She ses why Joe he saw the Worlds Fair in Chicago





## MY WIFE ETHEL

and he knows all about fan dancers because he took me to see one once right here in Brooklyn and got in a lot of trouble about it. I ses you mean he got in trouble for taking you to see the fan dancer Ethel? She ses O no there was no trouble about that. It was something else.

I ses well I never heard of this before and Ethel ses no it was when I was just a little girl Joe. My Uncle Dan took me to a theatre over in Flatbush Avenue that had the movies and a vaudeville show along with it and one of the things on the bill was a lady who was a fan dancer. She was a fat lady Joe.

I ses that kind are no good for fan dancers and Ethel ses O you know about fan dancers too do you? I ses well I have seen some but what about the fat one you are telling me about? Ethel ses well Uncle Dan and I were setting in the front row at the theatre close to the stage and after she had done her fan dance awhile Uncle Dan ses do you like this fan dancer Ethel? I ses no Uncle Dan I think she is very immodest and Uncle Dan ses I think so too. Joe she really was immodest.

I ses well what happened Ethel? She ses

## UNCLE DAN AND THE FAN DANCER

you know how my Uncle Dan can shoot little lead shots out of his mouth Joe? I ses I should say I do know. I ses some day he is going to get killed doing that too and Ethel ses yes he almost did that time. He has one of his front teeth filed down and he puts a lot of the little shots in his mouth and he snips them out some way with his tongue one at a time and he can snip them a long ways and very accurate Joe and they feel like mosquitoes biting when they hit somebody. They are the same kind of shots you put in guns to kill things with Joe only of course Uncle Dan does not kill anything.

I ses Ethel I know all about it. I ses I have seen your Uncle Dan drive people half crazy with that business and Ethel ses thats right Joe he had that fan dancer half crazy with the third shot. I ses Ethel you mean he was setting there shooting those shots at the fan dancer? Ethel ses yes and he was hitting her too. Joe my Uncle Dan was wonderful because fan dancers keep swinging their fans around and he had to shoot those shots at just the right time or he would have only hit her fans and that would not have done any good.



## UNCLE DAN AND THE FAN DANCER

I ses well that is a fine thing for you to be setting there watching Ethel and she ses O I was just a little girl Joe. I thought it was very funny. My Uncle Dan kept hitting that fan dancer where she was fat and you never saw anybody so mad in your life Joe. I guess she thought it was something biting her at first but it made her leave the stage before she got through with her fan dance and I was glad. She was really very immodest Joe.

I ses where did the trouble come in? Ethel ses O I laughed so I guess they suspected my Uncle Dan because four big fellows were waiting outside the theatre when we came out and they jumped on Uncle Dan and gave him a terrible beating and the fat fan dancer was with them egging them on only she was in a dress then and did not have her fans Joe. I guess they were friends of hers.

I ses well it served him right Ethel and she ses thats what the judge ses the next morning Joe. They arrested my Uncle Dan and he got fined five dollars on top of the beating but do you know what Joe? I ses no what? She ses my Uncle Dan is practising with those little shots again and he ses he can hardly wait until

## MY WIFE ETHEL

the Worlds Fair opens with the fan dancers  
especially some without fans.

Yours truly

JOE TURP.

## 38. WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

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*Brooklyn, April 4.*

**D**EAR SIR last night when I got home from work my wife Ethel ses Joe do you know what day this is? I ses sure I know. I ses it is Monday. She ses is that all? I ses is what all? She ses is that all the day it is?

I ses well Ethel it is the third of April. She ses is that all? I ses let me see now. I ses the year is nineteen hundred and thirty-nine. I ses Ethel that is about all I can tell you about what day it is. I ses I know it is not pay day and it is not a holiday because I worked like a dog all day.

Ethel ses O Joe you never remember anything. What happened to-day three years ago? I ses let me see. I ses was that the day I broke my finger? She ses of course not. The day you broke your finger was a Sunday and it was not three years ago. It was last year. I ses well Ethel I have just been kidding you. I ses I knew it was your birthday all the time and

## MY WIFE ETHEL

I bought a present for you but I forgot and left it down to the drug store when I stopped in there to buy some smokes just now.

Ethel ses Joe my birthday is in December and not in April and even if it was my birthday it could not be something that happened three years ago and you did not forget my present in the drug store. You just want an excuse to sneak down there and buy me a box of candy like you always do when you are reminded that it is my birthday. I ses Ethel I will have to give up on what day it is and she ses O Joe I thought you would remember just once anyway. It is our wedding anniversary. We were married three years ago to-day.

I ses listen Ethel. I ses I knew all the time what day it is. She ses did you honest Joe? I ses how could I forget a day like that? She ses well you did not mention it this morning and I ses no but I have been planning all day to take you somewhere to-night to celebrate after we have had dinner and she ses we can go right now Joe because I did not make any dinner. I thought it would be nicer to eat out on our wedding anniversary.

I ses thats swell Ethel so I took her to Caseys

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

place in Flatbush Avenue and ordered steaks and beers and Ethel ses Joe I am awfully proud of you. There are not many married fellows who remember their wedding anniversaries. Only the ladies remember things like that. Joe I see Tommy Moriarty sitting over there. Did you ever make up your quarrel with him?

I ses no Ethel and I never will. She ses well now he is coming over towards us and he looks like he was not feeling very friendly. I ses let him come and Ethel ses O he is coming all right and when he got there she ses hello Tommy. He ses hello Ethel. You are still all right with me even if you are married to a lost ball. How is your Moms and Pops?

Ethel ses they are fine Tom and so is Uncle Dan. He ses I do not care anything about your Uncle Dan. He is a lost ball too like this one you are married to. I ses look Moriarty I do not want any trouble with you in here because Ethel and I are celebrating our wedding anniversary. I ses Ethel thought I had forgotten about it can you imagine that?

He ses well I am going to give you something that will always remind you of it. I ses





## WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

what are you going to give me? He ses I am going to give you a bust in the nose. It was lucky I came in Caseys to-night because I am leaving town to-morrow morning for good and I would have missed giving you that bust. If you had been an hour láter coming in here I would not have caught up with you and I would have regretted that all my life.

I ses listen Moriarty it is not a nice thing to start anything in Caseys place with ladies present and he ses O I will wait until you step outside and I ses well all right but there is no use delaying it then. I ses come on. I ses Ethel tell them to keep my steak hot and she ses O Joe and Tom I wish you fellows would not fight on our wedding anniversary. He ses there will not be any fight. I am only going to give him one bust and that is all he gave me because he walked out the door first and then turned as I stepped out and hit me in the eye before I was ready.

Then he walked away and I did not follow him because I could not see good and when I got back to the table my eye was swelled shut and all black and Ethel ses Joe I feel so sorry for Tom. You know the real reason he is

## MY WIFE ETHEL

mad at you is because he liked me so much when I married you. I ses Ethel I have had five hundred fights with fellows who liked you and have been sore at me ever since we got married and if there are more in Brooklyn I am liable to get killed before I get through. I ses look at my eye.

Ethel began to cry and she ses O Joe I am so sorry and you will never forgive me for that terrible eye. I was sitting here thinking of the last time Tommy Moriarty proposed to me and it was the night before we got married and Joe it was not the third of April we got married after all. It was the second.

Yours truly

JOE TURP.

## 39. LIVER AND ONIONS

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*Brooklyn, April 14.*

DEAR SIR the other night when I got home from work I ses to my wife Ethel well sweets what have you got to surprise your old husband with for dinner? Ethel ses why Joe I have got liver and onions.

I ses that is a fine thing for a fellow who has been working hard all day to come home to. I ses if I had thought this was liver and onions day I would have got a sandwich down at Schultzes and let it go at that. Ethel ses why Joe liver and onions is very nourishing and besides it is very hard to think up something different every day for your dinner.

I ses well all right Ethel but I had kind of got my mouth all set for something besides liver and onions and she ses I think we ought to be thankful we have got that. A lot of people in this world would be mighty glad to have liver and onions. I ses Ethel now you are talking like your Moms and Ethel ses well it is true and besides I love liver and onions especially onions.

## MY WIFE ETHEL

After dinner we went to see a movie and when we got up to leave after it was all over Ethel ses O darn it Joe theres a run in my stocking from these seats. A little piece of something is sticking out somewhere and caught it. I ses well you ought to be careful where you put your legs in theatres. I ses come on lets go home and she ses no I am going to see the manager of this theatre and tell him about my stocking. He ought to buy me a new pair.

I ses Ethel lets not have any more arguments with these theatre managers and she ses thats just the trouble with you Joe. You are always afraid to stick up for your rights and I ses nothing happened to my stocking and she ses no or you would be making an awful row. I am going to see the manager Joe and you can come with me or not as you please.

So we went out front and found the manager and Ethel stuck out her leg to show him where the run was in her stocking and she ses look at this. The manager ses I am looking madam and its fine. I never saw a better one in my life. Ethel ses do you mean this run? He ses what run? She ses the run in my stocking

## LIVER AND ONIONS

and he ses O I thought you meant something else.

I ses Ethel this is just a smart aleck fellow. I ses you let me talk to him and he ses who are you? I ses I am Joe Turp and this is my wife Ethel and she has got a run in her stocking off your seats and you ought to buy her a new pair of stockings. He ses O I ought to ought I? I ses yes you ought to and Ethel ses yes that is so mister. Besides making people look at terrible pictures you have got seats that ruin their stockings and then you get fresh with them when they say something.

He ses madam I am not responsible for your stockings and she ses who is then? He ses you have got them there. She ses well you are responsible for those little pieces of something sticking out on your seats and I could sue you. He ses go ahead madam and I will split the judgement with you. I ses Ethel I tell you this is just a smart aleck fellow and maybe I better take the price of your stockings out of his hide.

The manager ses I guess you two have been drinking and I ses buddy dont give me that old stuff. I ses that is what everybody ses



## LIVER AND ONIONS

nowadays when they get into an argument and just then a cop came along and the manager ses officer these people have been drinking and this fellow is threatening me.

The cop ses what is the trouble? Ethel ses look cop look at my stocking where I got a run in it off his seats and then he got fresh when I showed it to him and asked him to buy me a new pair and now he ses we have been drinking. Look cop look. The cop ses well well well. I ses here Ethel will you please stop showing your legs to everybody that comes along? I ses what does a cop care about legs? The cop ses brother you would be surprised. I ses well I am a citizen of this town and I am entitled to a little justice.

The cop ses have you been drinking? I ses of course not and he ses to Ethel have you been drinking madam? She ses why cop thats silly. Look here now. Then she went hah in the cops face and he ses do it again madam. So she went hah again and he ses you have been eating onions. She ses sure I have. I always eat them with liver. The cop ses do you like liver and onions? Ethel ses I love it and the cop ses so do I.



## MY WIFE ETHEL

Then he ses to the manager listen Mack do you know it is a serious thing to accuse people of drinking when they have not been doing it? They could cause you a lot of trouble Mack. The manager ses O I was only kidding with them and the cop ses I guess you better take care of this ladys stockings Mack and while I think of it I am going to send my own wife around to see you. She got a run off those seats of yours herself a week ago.

So the manager ses to Ethel well madam I apologize to you for what I ses about you drinking and she ses you have got to apologize to my husband Joe too and he ses all right Joe that goes for you also. Then he gave Ethel a strip of tickets for other pictures to make good on her stockings and he ses madam I want to tell you something. I like liver and onions myself and when we got home Ethel ses Joe do you know what? It was a good job we had those liver and onions after all.

Yours truly

JOE TURP.

## 40. A TOUGH AUDIENCE FOR UNDERWEAR



*Brooklyn, April 22.*

DEAR SIR the other night I took my wife Ethel to the movies and when we got home she ses Joe I have been thinking of something. I have been thinking that it is too bad those fellows who make the movies do not know any nice people.

I ses what do you mean they do not know any nice people? I ses what makes you think they do not know any nice people? Ethel ses why because they never put any nice people in the movies. All they put in is murderers and fellows who talk rude to ladies and sometimes slap them. That is what makes me think they do not know any nice people.

I ses look Ethel those fellows who make the movies put in those kind of people because that is life. I ses it does not mean that they do not know any nice people and she ses what nice people do they know? I ses that is a fine question. I ses you know very well I do not know

## MY WIFE ETHEL

any of those fellows who make the movies so how would I know what nice people they know?

Ethel ses well it is very strange to me that if they know any nice people they do not put some of them in the movies once in a while. Joe I am awfully tired of seeing people who have no manners when they eat and who sit around squirting tobacco juice out of their mouths and who talk terribly rude to each other like that husband and wife did in that picture to-night.

I ses Ethel those fellows who squirt tobacco juice out of their mouths are just for laughs. I ses they have them in lots of pictures and Ethel ses do you laugh at them? I ses no but some people do. She ses what people? I ses well I cannot think of any people by name right now but I often hear somebody laughing in the theatre when it happens. Ethel ses well Joe I think it is disgusting. It is almost as bad as the operations.

I ses what operations Ethel? She ses the operations on people they are always showing you in the movies. Do you like operations Joe? I ses no Ethel I am not really an operations man.

## A TOUGH AUDIENCE FOR UNDERWEAR

I ses the way I do about them is to close my eyes when they get ready to have the operation and not open them until I think it is all over. Ethel ses well so do I do that about op-



erations but sometimes those fellows who squirt tobacco juice out of their mouths do it when you least expect it and you do not have time to close your eyes.

I ses well Ethel it is just comedy stuff. I ses that talk between the husband and his wife in that picture to-night was comedy stuff too. I ses the husband was making smart cracks at his wife and she was making smart cracks back at him and Ethel ses well they were both very rude. Would you talk that way to me Joe? I ses certainly not Ethel but we are not the kind of people who make smart cracks like that at each other.

## MY WIFE ETHEL

Ethel ses do you know anybody in this neighborhood that talks that way to each other Joe? I ses no sweets but the people in this neighborhood are not the kind of people they put in the movies. She ses why not Joe? I ses well I guess that kind would not be very interesting. I ses the people in this neighborhood are just little people like you and me and nothing happens to them that would make them worth putting in the movies.

Ethel ses are the people in this neighborhood nice people Joe? I ses yes I guess they are nice enough and she ses then what you mean is that nice people are not interesting. I ses now there you go Ethel twisting what I ses around to suit yourself and putting me on the spot. I ses why do you always try to tell me what I mean when I may mean something else? She ses why what else could you mean Joe? I ses never mind Ethel. I ses just cancel it.

She ses well I would like to see one movie sometime where everybody did not drink a lot of liquor and get drunk all over the place and had nice manners and acted like ladies and gentlemen. I would like to see a picture where nobodys pants or skirts got torn off to show

## A TOUGH AUDIENCE FOR UNDERWEAR

them in their underwear. Joe do you think it is nice to show people in their underwear?

I ses Ethel to tell you the truth I have never thought about that one way or the other. I ses I guess they put that in for laughs too and she ses well Joe no underwear ever made me laugh much and I ses no you are a tough audience for underwear.

She ses I would like to see a movie where nobody got slapped or hit on the chin and where everybody talked polite to each other and did not holler and scream.

I ses Ethel that would be a very quiet movie and she ses yes thats the kind I want to see Joe. I want it extra quiet with no nasty little children in it screeching at me and nobody eating with bad manners or squirting tobacco juice out of



## MY WIFE ETHEL

their mouths and no automobile accidents. I do not want to hear any husbands and wives make smart cracks at each other either Joe.

I ses well if ever I hear of a movie like that I will let you know Ethel and now I am going to bed. She ses good night Joe but do you know what I think? I ses no what? She ses I think your remark about me being a tough audience for underwear sounded like a smart crack? Was it Joe? I ses cancel that one too Ethel and good night.

Yours truly

JOE TURP.

## 41. CATCHING COLD

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*Brooklyn, April 29.*

DEAR SIR when I got home the other night my wife Ethel ses why Joe what makes you look so solemn? I ses Ethel I have got a bad cold and I feel terrible.

She ses well everybody has got a cold now. Its on account of this funny weather. I have got a little one myself.

I ses look Ethel my cold is not a little cold and it is not a cold like everybody has. I ses my cold is an awful cold. I ses I am in bad shape and I guess you better call Doc Crutcher.

She ses O pooh Joe you do not need Doc Crutcher for a little cold. I will fix you up in no time.

I ses Ethel I think I need medical attention. I ses I may be catching pneumonia and she ses O pooh thats foolish Joe but let me feel your head. Why you do not have any fever Joe.

I ses Ethel how can you tell if I have fever or not? I ses you have got to take somebodys temperature with a thermometer and she ses



## MY WIFE ETHEL

O pooh Joe I can tell by the way you feel without a thermometer. You are as cool as anything.

I ses Ethel in the first place I wish you would stop saying O pooh and in the second place I wish you would send for Doc Crutcher. I ses this is no time for amateurs. I ses it is a fine thing when a fellow is sick for him to come home and not get any sympathy.

She ses why Joe I have plenty of sympathy for you and I will put you in bed after you eat your dinner and then I will send for Doc Crutcher if you still want him.

I ses I dont know if I feel like eating and she ses O you must eat something Joe because my Moms ses starve a fever and feed a cold and I ses well all right and so I ate dinner and after dinner Ethel ses now by and by I will give you some aspirins and soak your feet in hot water and mustard and give you a hot lemonade and you will be all right in no time.

I ses look Ethel I guess you dont realize that I am a sick man. I ses you better send for Doc Crutcher before it gets serious and she ses well I will send for him but first you do what I tell you and while I was soaking my

## CATCHING COLD

feet in hot water and mustard she ses Joe fellows are funny. I ses whats funny about them?

She ses why they always make such an awful fuss when they catch a little cold. They play football and almost break each others legs and they have prize fights and try to kill each other with their fists and they play ice hockey and hit each other over the heads with sticks and almost make concussions of the brains and they get drunk and fall down on sidewalks and get all skinned up and they think thats fun but if they catch a little cold you would think they are going to die the next minute.

I ses who gets drunk? She ses well some fellows do and I ses well I am certainly surprised at you Ethel to be talking so heartless when I am desperately sick. I ses how would you feel if I got pneumonia and died?

She ses O pooh Joe will you stop talking that way and I ses there you go O poohing again and she ses well take these aspirins now and drink this nice hot lemonade and get into bed and I will put a hot water bag at your feet and you will be fine.

I ses I still think you ought to send for Doc

## MY WIFE ETHEL

Crutcher and she ses all right but first maybe I better put a mustard plaster on your chest and give you some castor oil like my Moms does my Pops when he has a cold.

I ses look Ethel that is all old-fashioned stuff. I ses that was for old time people when they did not have doctors handy and that is why so many of them died and Ethel ses who the doctors? I ses no the people.

She ses well my Pops has not died yet and he has had a million colds and it never stopped him from working right along either. I dont think you need the mustard plaster on your chest Joe but I guess I will give you some castor oil. I ses Ethel you know castor oil makes me sick and she ses well its wonderful for colds and I ses you send for Doc Crutcher and he will give me some up to date medicines.

She ses well all right Joe but I think it is throwing money away, and I ses Ethel I am certainly surprised that you would be thinking of money when I am so sick and she ses sometimes I get sick thinking of it.

I ses I suppose that is a wise crack but I am too sick to figure it out and if you do not call Doc Crutcher I will do it myself.

## CATCHING COLD

So she telephoned for Doc Crutcher and by and by he came over and stuck a thermometer in my mouth and looked at my tongue and listened to my chest and he ses why Joe there is nothing the matter with you but a little cold and a big healthy fellow like you will throw it off in no time.

He ses hey Ethel you just give him some aspirins and a good dose of castor oil and she ses what about a mustard plaster on his chest Doc? He ses well he does not need it but it will do him no harm.

What is the matter with you Ethel? You look peaked to me. She ses O I have just got a little cold myself Doc and he ses if you ask me you are worse off than Joe is but everybody has got colds now. Well take care of yourself and three dollars please. When he left Ethel ses well Joe what did I tell you but I pretended I was asleep and did not answer her.

Yours truly

JOE TURP.

## 42. ETHEL'S POPS AND DANGED HARD TIMES

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*Brooklyn, May 5.*

**D**EAR SIR my wife Ethel was reading the paper the other day and she ses Joe do you know the difference between the recession and the depression?

I ses sure I know. I ses everybody knows that and she says well all right what is it? I ses Ethel the recession is what we are having now and the depression is what we had before we had the recession and she ses how are they different?

I ses Ethel when we had the depression, business was bad and nobody had much money and a lot of people got out of work I ses that was the depression. I ses then things got a little better for a while. I ses business improved and there was more money around and more people got work. I ses do you understand what I mean?

Ethel ses I understand all right Joe. You just go on explaining to me and I ses well

## POPS AND DANGED HARD TIMES

next business got bad again and nobody had much money and a lot of people got out of work again and that is the recession? I ses you are correct Ethel and she ses well my Pops was right.

I says what do you mean your Pops was right? Ethel says well he was over here to-day to tell me my Moms rheumatism is bothering her again and she wants me to come and see her and I asked him what is the difference between the depression and the recession and he says those names are danged foolishness. My Pops ses they are just fancy names for danged hard times.

I ses O I suppose your Pops knows more about it than I do? Ethel ses well my Pops is not so dumb and he has lived a long time. He ses the depression was just danged hard times and the recession is danged hard times and that there is no difference between danged hard times no matter what you call them.

I ses look Ethel you do not have to put in quite so many dangeds do you? I ses that is not such a nice word and she ses well I am just telling you what my Pops ses. He danged all over the place. He ses they can call it pression

## MY WIFE ETHEL

this and pression that but its still old-fashioned danged hard times. Joe my Pops remembers when they had danged harder times than we are having now.

I ses O he does hay? Ethel ses yes he remembers when they had danged harder times right here in Brooklyn. He remembered when people in this very neighborhood were danged near starving to death because nobody had any money or any jobs and the danged banks were busting everywhere and it was danged cold besides.

I ses well you had an interesting time listening to his danging and Ethel ses O yes it was very interesting. I gave my Pops those two bottles of your beer off the ice Joe and he explained to me all about why we are having such danged hard times now. He ses it is the danged capitalists trying to ruin Mister Roosevelt. He ses the danged capitalists will do any danged thing they can think of to hurt Mister Roosevelt.

I ses it is a fine thing for a man to come home and find his wife has given his beer off the ice away to somebody like that and Ethel ses somebody like what? I ses never mind

## POPS AND DANGED HARD TIMES

and she ses go ahead and say it. Somebody like what? I ses well then somebody like your Pops and she ses what is the matter with my Pops?

I ses look Ethel I do not want any argument but I have been thinking about that nice cold beer all evening and she ses why Joe you would not begrudge a little bottle of beer to an old man like my Pops would you after he went to all the trouble of explaining about the difference between the recession and the depression to me?

I ses well if you know what did you ask me for? She ses O I like to hear you explain things to me too Joe only you have a different way of explaining than my Pops. I ses well from what you tell me he did not use any word but danged all the time he was explaining and she ses yes he did Joe. He finally got to talking about the Communists and he used a lot of other words besides danged. Would you like to hear them Joe?

I ses Ethel I have heard your Pops talk about the Communists myself. I ses I do not care to hear any more of his words and I am now going to bed and Ethel ses well good



## MY WIFE ETHEL

night Joe but wasnt it wonderful the way my Pops explained about the danged hard times to me?

Yours truly

JOE TURP.

## 43. ETHEL'S SALAD BOWL HAT



*Brooklyn, May 9.*

**D**EAR SIR the other night I could not get home for dinner so I had it downtown and I telephoned my wife Ethel to meet me at the movies and when I got there she was out in front of the theatre with the manager and another fellow the size of Max Baer and they was all having an argument.

I ses hello Ethel baby what is going on here and she ses O Joe I am so glad you came. I was setting inside in front of this big lummo and he hit me on the shoulder and ses take off

## MY WIFE ETHEL

your hat. I ses you better mind your own business and he sent for the manager here and he ses I have to take off my hat or get my money refunded. Joe he hit me on the shoulder hard and his tone of voice was very insulting.

Madam the big fellow ses I did not tell you to take off your hat and I did not hit you hard on the shoulder. I just touched you easy and all I ses was please remove your hat or scroonch down a little so I could see something. I paid my good dough to see that picture and how could I see it with that icecream freezer you have got on your head stuck up in front of me?

Ethel ses well that just shows what an ignorant man you are to call my hat an ice cream freezer. Joe this is my new hat and it is a salad bowl and it cost me five dollars to have Lucy Kaplan copy it from a picture in Harpers Bazaar. It is the latest thing out. Joe you see how insulting his tone of voice is.

Madam the big fellow ses all I ses was please remove your hat or scroonch down a little. That is all I ses and I was not insulting. I was very polite. You kept calling me a big lummoX and then you ses for me to come outside and your husband would take care of me

## ETHEL'S SALAD BOWL HAT

and I came out here to explain to your husband that I never insulted nobody and your husband was not here but the manager was and he ses he would refund your money.

Yes the manager ses I never ses a word about her having to take off her hat. I only ses I would be glad to refund her money. Nobody would believe the trouble I have around this joint over those screwy hats the women are wearing. I am half nuts right now. Ethel ses well everybody here seems to be trying to make me out a liar. Joe are you going to stand there and let them make me out a liar and not do anything about it? I told that big lummox you would take care of him and you will wont you Joe?

I ses wait a minute Ethel. I ses that hat you are wearing is pretty tall and maybe I would ask you to take it off myself if you was setting in front of me and Ethel ses O you are taking other peoples part against me are you? How could I take off my hat without spoiling my hair-do after it took me half the day to fix it?

I ses wait a minute Ethel. I ses just wait a minute and the big fellow ses madam if you

## MY WIFE ETHEL

had scroonched down it would not have been necessary for you to remove your hat but you ses you would not scroonch down for President Roosevelt.

I ses Ethel I still say that is a tall hat for anybody setting behind you to see over and she ses yes Joe but it is my new hat and the latest thing. It is a salad bowl and nobody else in Brooklyn has one like it yet but I bet that old Alma Brewer will have one to-morrow. She saw me in mine this afternoon and she is always copying somebody.

I ses Ethel I do not care what kind of a bowl it is or what it cost. I ses the last time it was a flower pot and the time before that it was a pill box and Ethel ses O no Joe you are wrong. It was a matteau sailor. The pill box was before that and then after that it was a disk.

I ses all right but whatever they was they was funny hats and the manager ses mister hats may be funny to you but they are serious to me. I am half nuts from the hats that come in my theatre and cause trouble like this one your wife has got on and the big fellow ses I will say I did not insult anybody. All I ses to your wife was madam please remove your

## ETHEL'S SALAD BOWL HAT

hat or scroonch down a little and if anybody wants to make anything of that they can.

My wife Ethel began to cry and she ses I wish I was dead so nobody could insult me any more and I ses to the big fellow O a tough guy hay? He ses well no I do not claim to be tough but if anybody wants to make anything of anything they can. I ses well when you are talking about hats I do not like the dicer you have got on. I ses it reminds me of one I saw a bum wearing the other day. I ses nobody but a bum would go around insulting ladies about their hats and making them cry and he ses well I guess you are looking for it.

Then he took a punch at me and hit me on the nose and I took a punch at him and missed and we clinched and wrestled around and the manager run and got a cop and the cop ses here break it up boys. What is all this about? I ses it is about my wifes hat and the cop took a look at Ethels hat and ses it is not worth it so you go on home now and take it easy.

When we got home I ses see here Ethel the next time you are going to set in front of

## MY WIFE ETHEL

somebody in a hat like that, please pick out somebody nearer my size. I ses my nose feels busted and I ache all over from that big fellow wrestling me around and she ses tell me Joe do you like my new hat? It is a salad bowl and the latest thing out.

I ses never mind about that. I ses you just tell me one thing. I ses if you did not want to take your hat off to keep from spoiling your hair what was the harm in not scroonching down a little like that big fellow asked and kept out of all that trouble and Ethel ses why Joe you silly if I had scroonched down nobody could have seen my hat.

Yours truly

JOE TURP.

## 44. A BILLION DOLLARS

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*Brooklyn, May 20.*

DEAR SIR my wife Ethel was reading the paper the other night and she ses Joe how much is a billion? I ses a billion what? She ses a billion anything. Are there different kinds of billions?

I ses no Ethel not that I know of. I ses a billion is a billion but if you tell me what you are thinking about maybe I could explain it better. She ses well I am thinking about a billion dollars. How much is a billion dollars Joe?

I ses Ethel a billion dollars is a billion dollars. I ses a billion dollars is a thousand times more than a million dollars and she says is that a lot of money Joe? I ses Ethel it is an awful lot of money and she says what does it look like? I ses how do I know what a billion dollars looks like? I ses I never saw a billion dollars.

Ethel ses well then if you never saw a billion dollars how do you know it is an awful lot of money? Could you put a billion dollars in your pockets? I ses Ethel of course you could not



## MY WIFE ETHEL

put a billion dollars in your pocket unless it was in a check and she ses whose check? I ses anybodys check and she ses would anybodys check for a billion dollars be any good?

I ses look Ethel I am starting to get a headache and she ses all right there is some aspirin on the second shelf in the bath room but why do you always start to get a headache when I ask you a few simple questions? Could you put a billion dollars in dollar bills in this room Joe?

I ses no Ethel. I ses you could not put a billion dollars in this room in dollar bills or in a whole lot of rooms the same size. She ses could you put it in this room in ten dollar bills? I ses no not in ten dollar bills either and she ses how do you know Joe if you never saw a billion dollars?

I ses well Ethel I know that a billion dollars in ten dollar bills would take up a terrible lot of room. I ses I know that from what I have read about how much a billion dollars is. I ses I guess there is not a building in Brooklyn big enough to hold a billion dollars in ten dollar bills.

Ethel ses why Joe that is foolish. The bank

## A BILLION DOLLARS

would hold it. I ses no Ethel the bank would not be big enough and she ses do you mean to set there and tell me if I had a billion dollars in ten dollar bills and went down to the bank and asked them to put it away for me they would not have room? I ses thats right Ethel and she ses well what on earth would I do with it then if there was not room enough in this house for it either?

I ses look Ethel sweetheart lets not worry about that now and she ses well I only wish I could talk to somebody that has really seen a billion dollars. I ses Ethel it will be a mighty cold day before you ever see anybody that has seen a billion. I ses nobody has ever seen a billion dollars all at once and Ethel ses why Joe thats crazy. President Roosevelt has seen a billion dollars.

I ses where did you get that idea Ethel? She ses why he has seen a lot of billion dollars. It ses right here in the paper that he is going to spend seven billion dollars and he could not spend something he has not even seen could he? Joe if a billion dollars is an awful lot of money seven billion dollars must be an awful awful awful lot?

## MY WIFE ETHEL

I ses yes Ethel I guess it is at that and she ses Joe where does that money come from? I ses well it comes from taxes and she ses who gets it? I ses well the idea is everybody gets it and she ses do you Joe? I ses no Ethel I do not get any of it and she ses why not? I ses well one reason is I do not need it and she ses O is that so Joe Turp? Well how about me wanting to get my ice box fixed and you claiming you cannot afford it?

I ses just a minute Ethel. I ses that money that President Roosevelt is going to spend is to put people to work and help people who are on relief and Ethel ses will old Missus Dolan get her money back? I ses what money and Ethel ses why she was on relief and getting fourteen dollars a week and they cut her down to ten and she needs the extra money. Will she get that four dollars a week back out of the seven billion?

I ses well Ethel I guess there are more important things than Missus Dolans four bucks and Ethel ses there is nothing more important to Missus Dolan right now. That extra four dollars meant a lot to her and they ought to be able to spare it out of seven billions.

## A BILLION DOLLARS

Joe I want to ask you something else now. How big a building would it take to put seven billion dollars in if I had it in ten dollar bills?

I ses look Ethel where did you say that aspirin was?

Yours truly  
JOE TURP.



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# MORE THAN SOMEWHAT

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BY  
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